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**THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION APPLAUDS LATEST
DEVELOPMENT IN HUMAN CELL REPROGRAMMING**
Calls New Research "Exciting First Step That Warrants Exploration"

NEW YORK - The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) today applauded Dr. Shinya Yamanaka and Dr. Jamie Thompson's groundbreaking work on the reprogramming of human cells. Their research may provide a new route for bringing human embryonic stem cell therapies closer to the clinic.

"While this work is a tremendously exciting development for the field that warrants further exploration, the research uses known cancer-causing genes to reprogram cells and return them to an embryonic-like state," said Dr. Kevin Eggan, NYSCF Scientific Director, "The retroviruses used to introduce these additional genes into the cells often turn on cancer genes that are already present."

"It remains to be determined whether reprogramming can be achieved without using cancer-causing genes. We must also be certain that the resulting pluripotent stem cells are entirely equivalent to embryonic stem cells," said Dr. Eggan.

"The New York Stem Cell Foundation will continue to provide support for human embryonic stem cell research in all of its forms," said Susan L. Solomon, NYSCF Chief Executive Officer. "We believe that moving forward with research on all fronts is the most promising way to understand the root causes of degenerative disease. It will be exciting to see what breakthroughs embryonic stem cell research will yield for the future; right now, the pursuit of all avenues of scientific and medical inquiry is our only option."

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About The New York Stem Cell Foundation

Founded in 2005, the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) is a privately funded organization dedicated to furthering human embryonic stem cell research to advance the search for cures of the major diseases of our time. The Foundation opened the first privately funded human embryonic stem cell laboratory in New York in March 2006 to serve as a "safe haven" where scientists from academic medical centers in the New York area and throughout the East Coast can conduct advanced human embryonic stem cell research free of the federal restrictions that limit the scope of government-supported work. The organization's mission is to support scientists engaged in human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research and somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), through grants, fellowships and symposia; to educate the public about the importance and potential benefits of hESC research and SCNT; and to establish new collaborative, state-of-the-art research facilities supported entirely with private funds and directly focused on curing disease.