

The logo for the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) is a red square containing the text "NYSCF" in white, bold, sans-serif font. Below "NYSCF" is the text "The New York Stem Cell Foundation" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

The New York
Stem Cell Foundation

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THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION APPLAUDS PRESIDENT OBAMA’S EXECUTIVE ORDER AMENDING FEDERAL STEM CELL RESEARCH POLICY

An Important Step Forward But Key Restrictions Remain

NEW YORK, NY (March 9, 2009) – The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) today applauded President Barack Obama’s executive order overturning a Bush Administration policy that, for eight years, restricted the use of federal funds for human embryonic stem cell research to a limited number of stem cell lines created before August 9, 2001. While lauding this bold and important policy decision as an important first step, the organization noted that President Obama’s executive order does not permit federal funding for derivation of new human embryonic stem cell lines.

On August 9, 2001, President George W. Bush issued an executive order cutting off federal funding for any research that involved all but a small number of existing human embryonic stem cell lines. Many of those lines had already been deemed of limited or no use by top scientists. Today’s executive order states that federal agencies, such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH), may fund research on a far larger number of existing and future stem cell lines.

“President Obama’s actions today represent the reclamation of critical lost ground and a renewed sense of hope for the future of stem cell research in this country,” said Susan L. Solomon, NYSCF CEO. “It is time for our elected leaders to finally put progress before politics on this issue and remove all of the remaining unnecessary limitations on human embryonic stem cell research that is conducted using the best ethical and medical practices.” Solomon noted that the 1996 Dickey-Wicker Amendment precludes the use of federal funds to derive new human embryonic stem cell lines.

“Human embryonic stem cell research continues to yield new and exciting information about how diseases work and, ultimately, how we might treat and defeat them,” said Kevin Eggan, NYSCF Chief Scientific Officer. “It is critical that researchers have the ability – and the means – to follow any path that may potentially improve our understanding. By continuing to use multiple research approaches, including Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT), we will find those answers far faster.”

“Private philanthropy is, and will continue to be, a critical and necessary driver of the most innovative and promising stem cell science,” added Solomon.

About The New York Stem Cell Foundation

Founded in 2005, The New York Stem Cell Foundation is a privately funded foundation dedicated to furthering stem cell research to advance the search for cures of the major diseases of our time. NYSCF opened the first privately funded stem cell laboratory in New York City in March 2006 to serve as a “safe haven” where scientists can conduct advanced stem cell research free of federal restrictions. The organization supports scientists engaged in stem cell research through grants, fellowships and symposia; runs collaborative, state-of-the-art research facilities supported entirely with private funds and directly focused on curing disease; and educates the public about the importance and potential benefits of stem cell research.

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