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THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION APPLAUDS APPROVAL OF NEW STEM CELL LINES FOR FEDERAL RESEARCH SUPPORT

NEW YORK CITY--The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) applauds the announcement today by **Dr. Francis Collins**, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that 13 new stem cell lines have been approved for federal research support.

These are the first stem cell lines to be approved for federal funding since President George W. Bush issued an executive order on August 9, 2001 that limited federal research support to a small number of lines that were made before that date. Hundreds of stem cell lines have been created since then, but have been ineligible for NIH funding.

Of the 13 lines that were approved, two were made by New York scientists at Rockefeller University, **Dr. Ali Brivanlou** and **Dr. Scott Noggle**. Dr. Noggle is now the Director of the Stem Cell Laboratory at the New York Stem Cell Foundation. Dr. Noggle said, "It is gratifying to know that the lines we made at Rockefeller University can now be used by NIH-funded researchers across the country to develop therapies for a wide variety of diseases."

"NYSCF welcomes the announcement of NIH approval of these new lines, which will accelerate stem cell research in New York and elsewhere", said **Susan Solomon**, CEO of NYSCF. "NYSCF will continue to support research on these lines and others, including some that cannot be supported by NIH."

"We welcome this first step in what we hope will be a continuing series of NIH approvals of the many stem cell lines that have been made and will be made," said **Dr. Zach Hall**, NYSCF Board Member and former president of the California stem cell agency. "Because the NIH cannot fund the creation of new lines, but only research on lines made by others, the role of NYSCF and other private and state sources of funding will continue to be critical."

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About The New York Stem Cell Foundation:

Founded in 2005, The New York Stem Cell Foundation is 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 directly focused on curing disease; and educates the public about the importance and potential benefits of stem cell research. For more information, visit www.nyscf.org.