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**New York Stem Cell Foundation-Druckenmiller Fellow Lead Author  
On *Nature Protocols* Study On Deriving Neural Crest Cells**

NEW YORK, NY (March 19, 2010) - New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF)-Druckenmiller Fellow, **Gabsang Lee, PhD**, of Sloan-Kettering Institute, is lead author on a protocol for deriving neural crest cells from human pluripotent stem cells in *Nature Protocols*, a sister of the international scientific journal *Nature*. One of the figures from Dr. Lee's article was also selected by the editors to appear on the front cover of the April issue.

The study, *Derivation of neural crest cells from human pluripotent stem cells*, was published in the online edition of *Nature Protocols* and will appear in the journal's print edition in April. This is the third time Dr. Lee has been lead author in recent months; two of his studies were published in *Nature* and *Nature Methods*, and his collaboration with NYSCF-Druckenmiller Fellows **Dr. James Daylon** and **Dr. Marco Seandel** was published in *Nature Biotechnology* in February 2010.

"We are very proud of Dr. Lee, whose method of deriving neural crest cells in vitro will enable scientists to model and study a range of diseases, and bring us closer to understanding how these diseases work, and how to cure and prevent them," says **Susan L. Solomon**, NYSCF's founder and CEO. "In our own NYSCF laboratory, researchers are using human embryonic stem cells to derive cellular models for a wide variety of diseases, as a first step toward developing therapies. NYSCF is very proud to fund the work of young scientists that contributes so significantly to future healthcare. It is a privilege to have Dr. Lee in our fellowship program."

The protocol developed by Dr. Lee and his colleagues in Dr. Lorenz Studer's laboratory at Sloan Kettering reliably generates neural crest stem cells, the precursors of other neural cell types, from human embryonic stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells, a valuable tool for modeling aspects of human development and studying the impact of genetic disorders. A number of well-known disorders such as DiGeorge syndrome, Charcot-Marie-tooth disease, familial dysautonomia, and pediatric cancers, are linked to abnormal neural crest cell development.

Access to a source of human neural crest cells carrying the precise genetic makeup of a disease offers a unique model system to study the step-by-step development of these diseases in the laboratory. These model systems can be used to discover and validate new therapeutic compounds. They also provide a renewable cell source for applications in regenerative medicine such as repair of peripheral neuropathy.

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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](http://www.nyscf.org).