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NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION CEO SUSAN L. SOLOMON RECEIVES 2012 STEM CELL ACTION LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Genetic Policy Institute honors Susan Solomon for her relentless efforts in support of stem cell research and to accelerate stem cell-based treatments and cures for patients with unmet medical needs

WEST PALM BEACH, FL (December 5, 2012) – At the World Stem Cell Summit 2012, The Genetics Policy Institute awarded Susan L. Solomon, CEO of The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF), with the 2012 Stem Cell Action Leadership Award. This award recognizes Solomon for her dedication to advancing the field of stem cell research, and her leadership in supporting studies that will accelerate the development of stem cell-based treatments and cures for patients with unmet medical needs.

In 2005, Solomon co-founded NYSCF, a non-profit organization, to accelerate stem cell research and find cures to the major diseases of our time. An attorney with a distinguished career in business, she began her journey as a health-care advocate in 1992 when her son was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. In her quest for a cure, Solomon sought a path outside of traditional drug development, focusing instead on stem cell research for its potential to deliver more targeted, successful treatments and cures. She designed NYSCF to utilize a new model for accelerating translational research, pairing private philanthropy donations and public funding with the flexibility of a non-profit to support the most advanced stem cell research.

Solomon also believed that, in addition to funding external research, NYSCF needed its own research facility to accelerate discovery and provide an environment for scientists to learn, pursue research and collaborate with NYSCF scientists. Now one of the largest private stem cell laboratories in the U.S., the NYSCF Laboratory is the only institution in the country that conducts all types of stem cell research, creates human disease models and performs drug discovery under one roof. NYSCF research has been named a “Top Medical Breakthrough” for three of the past five years by lay and scientific press.

Since its inception, NYSCF has raised approximately \$100M for stem cell research, and supported over 100 leading researchers at top laboratories around the world including 40 full time NYSCF researchers. Scientists in the NYSCF laboratory focus on translational stem cell research in bone regeneration and disease areas including diabetes, multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer’s disease.

The Genetics Policy Institute has given the annual award to exemplary leaders in the field since 2005. Other recipients of this year's Stem Cell Action Awards are: the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine, "60 Minutes," Sabrina Cohen, founder of the Sabrina Cohen Foundation, and the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures. Previous awardees include Michael J. Fox, former Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Sherry Lansing, CEO of The Sherry Lansing Foundation, Margaret Conn Himelfarb, founder of the coalition Maryland Families for Stem Cell Research, and the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation.

About the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF)

The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) combines private philanthropy, the flexibility of a non-profit organization, and an entrepreneurial drive to enable the unrestricted pursuit of research that will accelerate development of stem cell-based treatments and cures for patients with unmet medical needs.

The Foundation has created a new model of translational research that breaks down the barriers that slow discovery and replaces silos with collaboration. The Foundation conducts research in its laboratory in New York City and supports research by stem cell scientists at other leading institutions around the world. More information is available at www.nyscf.org.

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