



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION  
APPLAUDS BRITISH HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY AUTHORITY'S  
FINDINGS ON PREVENTING MITOCHONDRIAL DISEASE**

*The UK Authority cites New York Stem Cell Foundation Research in Findings*

**NEW YORK, NY (March 20, 2013)** – The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) applauds findings by the United Kingdom's Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). The HFEA reports general public support for an advanced in vitro fertilization (IVF) technique to prevent the inheritance of mitochondrial diseases and that the technique itself was not found to be unsafe. Based on this counsel, the UK government will decide if it will permit this treatment.

The HFEA cited research from The New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) Laboratory as to why it believes this treatment to not be unsafe. Last year, NYSCF researchers led by Drs. Dieter Egli and Daniel Paull developed a method in collaboration with Drs. Mark Sauer and Michio Hirano of Columbia University Medical Center to successfully transfer the nucleus of between human eggs, without detectable transfer of potentially faulty mitochondrial DNA. Mitochondria, a cellular organelle involved in storing chemical energy, carry a distinct set of genes, separate from the cell's nucleus; mutations to mitochondrial DNA increase risk of life-threatening mitochondrial diseases. NYSCF scientists are undertaking necessary next steps to realize clinical application of this technique in the US.

Existing laws in the UK prevent alteration of human eggs prior to transplantation into a woman. The HFEA will pass its findings onto the Department of Health. Parliamentary support would be required to change this law and to enact new legislation to permit this technique. These laws do not exist in the United States.

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