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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NEW YORK STEM CELL FOUNDATION'S INAUGURAL TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH CONFERENCE EXPLORES THE POTENTIAL OF HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

Leading Figures in the Field Gather to Discuss the Latest Advances and the Future of Stem Cell Science, October 23-24 at The Rockefeller University

(NEW YORK, NY – October 23, 2006) – The New York Stem Cell Foundation today convened its first annual Translational Stem Cell Research Conference at The Rockefeller University in Manhattan. The conference brings together the most prominent figures in stem cell research from across the United States and the United Kingdom. These pre-eminent scientists will present the latest and most exciting breakthroughs in this revolutionary field of research.

The conference is co-chaired by Drs. Douglas Melton, PhD, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute; Thomas M. Jessell, PhD, Claire Tow Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, Columbia University Medical Center; and Harold Varmus, MD, President, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

The conference opens today with a public policy panel, "Stem Cell Research: The Way Forward," featuring scientists, advocates and international policy leaders discussing the challenges and solutions to supporting human embryonic stem cell research. Supported, in part, by a special Presidential grant from the Greenwall Foundation, the panel will include: David Carmel, vice president of StemCyte, Inc.; John Gearhart, PhD, director, Stem Cell Program, Institute for Cell Engineering at John Hopkins Medicine; Angela McNab, CEO of the U.K.'s Human Fertilisation & Embryology Authority; Douglas Melton, PhD, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute; Laurie Zoloth, PhD, director of the Center for Bioethics, Science and Society; and New York Stem Cell Foundation Co-Founder and CEO Susan L. Solomon, JD.

The second day of the conference, "Curing Disease from Lab Bench to Bedside," will feature a keynote address by Dr. Melton entitled "The Promise and Reality of Stem Cell Science." The day begins with presentations on Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT) - the most advanced human embryonic stem cell (hESC) technique -- followed by sessions exploring the impact stem cell research is having on efforts to better understand, and ultimately find better treatments and cures, for diabetes, auto immune diseases, heart disease, cancer and neurological disorders.

"This conference is an unprecedented event for New York's scientific community and reinforces the city's status as a vital center for stem cell research," said Solomon. "We are assembling the very best minds in stem cell science to discuss the most recent progress that has been made in translational research and the breakthroughs that are on the immediate horizon. "

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The New York Stem Cell Foundation conference is co-sponsored by the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Columbia University Medical Center, the Helen and Martin Kimmel Center for Stem Cell Biology at New York University School of Medicine, the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and the members of Tri-Institutional Stem Cell Initiative: The Rockefeller University, Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

"The New York Stem Cell Foundation is a unifying force that brings the institutions together, allows us to conduct symposia under a common framework, and helps assure the scientific community and young people who are interested in research in this field that there is public support for this research," said Dr. Varmus.

Paul Nurse, PhD, president of The Rockefeller University added, "The Conference brings together pre-eminent stem cell biologists from New York and the Northeast, as well as researchers representing the best and most exciting work from across the United States and United Kingdom. With its focus on translational development in this revolutionary field, the conference is a landmark event -- and a first for the New York region."

For further information, including a conference brochure and registration information, please visit www.nyscf.org.

About The New York Stem Cell Foundation

Founded in 2005, the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF) is a privately-funded foundation dedicated to furthering human embryonic stem cell research to advance the search for cures of the major diseases of our time. The foundation opened its first privately-funded laboratory in March 2006 to serve as a "safe haven" where scientists from academic medical centers in the New York area and throughout the East Coast can conduct advanced human embryonic stem cell research free of the federal restrictions that limit the scope of government-supported work. The organization's missions are: to support scientists engaged in human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research and somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT), through grants, fellowships and symposia; to educate the public about the importance and potential benefits of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research and somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT); and to establish new collaborative, state-of-the-art research facilities supported entirely with private funds and directly focused on curing disease.

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