



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

TO: IASCR Participants
FROM: Marianne Horn
DATE: October 7, 2009
SUBJ: Update on Connecticut's Stem Cell Research Program

1. Funding Update

On October 2, 2009, the State of Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee released its fourth Request for Proposals for the next round of \$9.8 million in stem cell research funds to be awarded in April 2010. These funds are from the Stem Cell Research Fund, established by the Connecticut General Assembly and signed into law by Governor M. Jodi Rell in 2005. Between 2005 and 2015, the Committee is tasked with awarding approximately \$100 million in order to encourage stem cell research in Connecticut. To date, Connecticut has allocated nearly \$40 million in support of human and embryonic stem cell research.

2. Policies

Connecticut will continue to prioritize funding for proposals that are not eligible for federal funding. This year the amount per grant for established investigator was increased to up to \$1 million. Funded core facilities may receive additional funding but core grants are not a priority for this year's funding.

3. Progress

Yale University reports that the funding they received from the State has allowed Yale to build an infrastructure and a vibrant community of investigators to conduct stem cell research. Prior to the passage of CT's law, there was only one investigator at Yale working on human embryonic stem cells. Today, there are 18 laboratories on Yale campus actively pursuing human embryonic stem cell research. Specifically, the initial funding of \$7.3 million from the State in 2007 allowed Yale to build an infrastructure of core facilities, initiate new research projects, recruit new faculty, and stimulate new collaborations both within the Yale community and throughout Connecticut. The access to human embryonic stem cell lines, imaging, and data analysis technology at Yale's core laboratories has paved the road for scientists to conduct their research.

The University of Connecticut reports that the grant awards from the State of Connecticut Stem Cell Fund support research in over 30 laboratories at the University of Connecticut. They are training the next generation of clinical and basic research scientists who will lead this new field of investigation into areas of medical practice and launch new Connecticut-based biotechnology companies.

Wesleyan University was a co-recipient with UConn of the grant-in-aid to establish a core facility. Wesleyan reports that this interaction provides them with needed support to grow and differentiate human ESCs.