



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

TO: IASCR Participants
FROM: Warren Wollschlager
DATE: September 9, 2008
SUBJ: Update on Connecticut's Stem Cell Research Grants-in-aid Program

1. Funding Updates

Connecticut will issue a Request for Proposals for the third round of stem cell research grants-in-aid in September 2008. A total of \$9.8 million in state funding will be made available to the research community in this, the third installment of grants from the Stem Cell Research Fund created by statute in 2005. It is anticipated the third allocation of funds should be completed on or after April 1, 2009.

By 2015, the state will allocate approximately \$100 million in order to support stem cell research in Connecticut. In its first round of funding in November 2006, the Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee directed \$19.78 million to 21 stem cell projects at Yale, UCONN and Wesleyan University. On April 1, 2008, the committee allocated \$9.84 million in stem cell research funds to scientists based in Storrs, Farmington and New Haven.

2. Legislation/Policies

On May 27, 2008, Governor Rell signed Public Act No. 08-80, an Act Concerning Stem Cell Research, effective October 1, 2008. The Act makes changes in Connecticut's stem cell research law to reflect acknowledgment of, and compliance with, the "National Academies' Guidelines for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research". The Act (1) amends the consent requirements for prospective embryo donors; (2) establishes an "acceptably derived" standard to allow the use of human embryonic stem cell lines derived outside Connecticut; (3) requires that all human embryonic stem cell research conducted in the state be overseen by embryonic stem cell review oversight committees, and (4) requires the state's Stem Cell Research Peer Review Committee members to use the National Academies' Guidelines when evaluating grant applications. Marianne Horn, Director of Legal Services for the Connecticut DPH, authored the legislation. The legislation is the direct result of interstate discussions at the IASCR meetings.