



University of Connecticut  
*Office of the President*

Michael J. Hogan  
*President*

October 21, 2009

Dr. J. Robert Galvin, Chairman  
Members of the State Stem Cell Advisory Committee  
410 Capital Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06134

Dear Chairman Galvin and Members of the Committee:

I'm writing to you, the Chair and members of the State Stem Cell Advisory Committee, to affirm the University's strong commitment to maintain and expand our world-class research efforts in human embryonic stem cell biology.

The University of Connecticut's success in obtaining over \$20 million in the first three rounds of applications to the State's Stem Cell Fund supports the research of 57 investigators, and we anticipate increasing the number of laboratories and scientists working in stem cell biology, given the excellent set of proposals that are being submitted in this funding cycle.

On our part, the University has invested over \$1 million to establish and equip the human embryonic stem cell (hESC) core facility. This core facility provides training, hESC lines and other services to researchers from all over the state of Connecticut. During the past year, our hESC core facility produced the first two human embryonic stem cell lines, CT1 and CT2, in the State of Connecticut. This achievement is a testimony to our core's high level of expertise and places both the State and the University of Connecticut at the forefront of international stem cell research.

The University of Connecticut hESC core facility also banks nine additional hESC lines, including six federally eligible (NIH- approved) lines and three non-eligible lines. We developed a memorandum of understanding with the Wisconsin foundation WiCell to distribute their hESC lines to investigators in Connecticut with minimal paperwork and at no charge. Extensive training and support in the techniques of hESC culture have been delivered through 20 training courses, involving 138 trainees from Wesleyan and Yale Universities as well as the University of Connecticut. Live cultures of hESC lines are provided to researchers who have received approval from their institutional Embryonic Stem Cell Research Oversight (ESCRO) committees.

In addition to setting up and funding the hESC core facility, the University of Connecticut has made additional in-kind contributions by agreeing to reduce the indirect cost rate from our

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*

352 Mansfield Road Unit 2048  
Storrs, Connecticut 06269-2048

Telephone: (860) 486-2337  
Facsimile: (860) 486-2627  
e-mail: Mike.Hogan@uconn.edu

Re: University Support  
Date: October 21, 2009  
Page 2

standard 53% to 25% and by supporting the Committee's proposal concerning royalty-revenue sharing with the State of Connecticut. The University has also developed policies and procedures that are specific to hESC research, to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

The University is eager to pursue all aspects of cutting-edge stem cell research. The mission of our Stem Cell Institute under the leadership of Dr. Marc Lalande is to foster interaction within our State's stem cell community. The University will continue to encourage and support the core's mission to provide hESC expertise to its own researchers and to those throughout the state of Connecticut. Further, we are equally committed to providing the infrastructure needed by all research teams to be successful in competing for extramural funds. To that end, the University recently invested \$1,100,000 to purchase state-of-the-art equipment to purify stem cells and to read their genome using a state-of-the-art Illumina Genome Analyzer. Moreover, the Stem Cell Institute, hESC core and many of our top scientists will move to a newly renovated \$52 million 117,000 sq. ft. research building in May 2010. The creation of this Center of Innovation will speed stem cell research and the development of novel stem cell therapies. We are fully committed to ensuring that human stem cell research is conducted in accordance with the highest ethical and legal standards.

Sincerely,

  
Michael J. Hogan  
President