

NYAMR IS:

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
AMDeC Foundation, Inc.
American College of Obstetricians &
Gynecologists Districts II/NY
American Diabetes Association
American Federation for
Aging Research
American Lung Association
of New York State
Arthritis Foundation
Canavan Foundation
Children's Neurobiological
Solutions Foundation
Christopher Reeve Paralysis
Foundation
Columbia University Medical Center
Community Health
Charities of New York
DEBRA
Dysautonomia Foundation
Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Genetic Disease Foundation
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist
Organization of America, Inc.
Hygeia Foundation, Inc.
Interfaith Impact of NYS
Jacob's Cure
Jeffrey Modell Foundation
Juvenile Diabetes Research
Foundation
Lupus Alliance of America
Macula Foundation
Medical Society of the State of NY
Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center
Mental Health Association
in New York State, Inc.
The Michael J. Fox Foundation
for Parkinson's Research
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
New York Biotechnology Association
New York College of
Osteopathic Medicine
New York State Thoracic Society
New York Stem Cell Foundation
NYU School of Medicine
The Parkinson Alliance
Parkinson's Action Network
Parkinson's Disease Foundation
Project A.L.S.
S.L.E. Lupus Foundation
Society for Women's Health
Research
Stony Brook University
Medical Center
Tourette Syndrome Association
United Spinal Association
University at Buffalo, School of
Medicine & Biomedical Sciences
University of Rochester
Medical Center
The Women's Public Policy Task
Force of UJA - Federation of NY

Testimony Submitted on behalf of New Yorkers for the Advancement of
Medical Research (NYAMR)

Submitted to the Public Hearings Regarding the 2008-09 Budget

State of New York

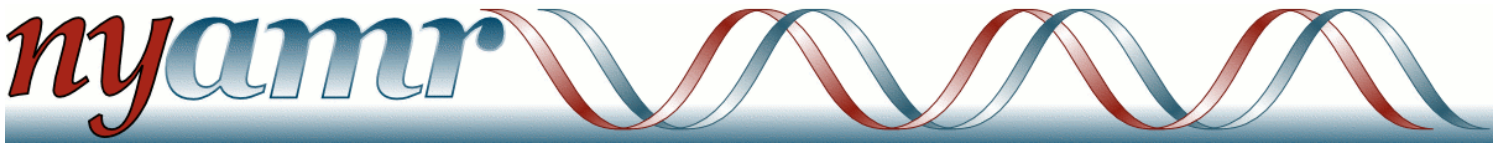
Division of the Budget

Eliot Spitzer, Governor

“Ensuring Passage of the 2008-09 Budget Including \$50 million
Appropriated and \$100 million Re-appropriated for Stem Cell Research”

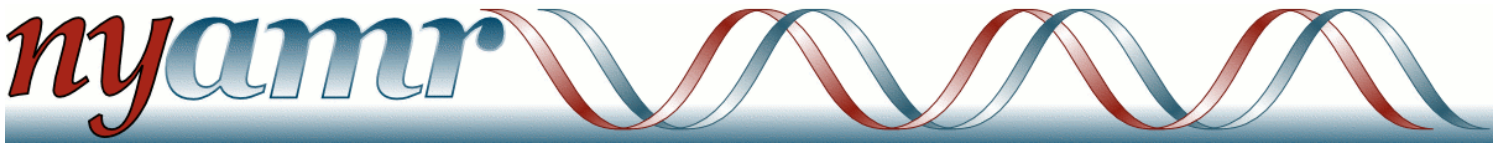
My name is Shelley Klein and I am the National Director of
Advocacy for Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. I
am here today as a representative of New Yorkers for the Advancement of
Medical Research (NYAMR), a diverse coalition of 46 scientific, health
advocacy, and citizens' organizations with the single purpose of supporting
New York State funding for regenerative medicine, including research
involving human embryonic stem cells. Robin Gelburd, general counsel of
AMDeC Foundation, Inc., currently serves as its chair.

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I am here today to thank the Spitzer Administration for its passage of the Empire State Stem Cell Program in the FY 2007-08 budget and to request appropriate funding for the program in FY 2008-09. This includes a re-appropriation of \$100 million and a new appropriation of \$50 million, as authorized in last year's budget.

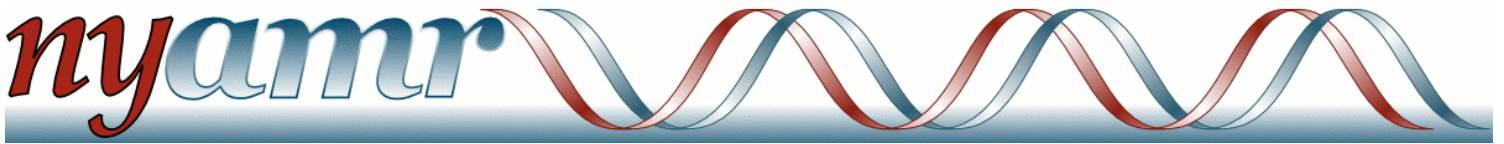
NYAMR was founded in 2003 as an outgrowth of the national stem cell advocacy organization, the Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR), and the efforts of AMDeC Foundation, Inc. in the spring of 2003 to pass legislation in New York supporting the advancement of stem cell research. What began as a small group of individuals has rapidly grown in size and influence to become the preeminent lobbying organization for stem cell research in the state. Over the last nearly five years, NYAMR has been instrumental in educating New York State lawmakers about the importance of funding stem cell research. NYAMR is valued by New York lawmakers for our expertise in the science of stem cells, our commitment to ensuring that the highest ethical standards of this research are met, our appreciation of the nexus of scientific advancement and New York's economic well-being and our understanding of the urgency that New York State take a lead role in this research for its patients and scientists.



Stem cell research has the potential to prevent, treat, and possibly cure many debilitating and life-threatening conditions such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, ALS, and cancer – diseases which affect over 100 million Americans and many hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers.

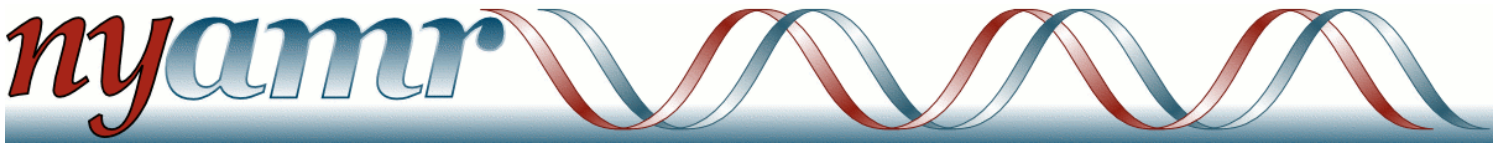
In August 2001, the Bush Administration placed severe limits on federal financing for embryonic stem cell research, setting off vigorous competition among the states to provide their own funding to keep this type of research alive. Yet New York – home to leading research universities, medical centers and biotechnology companies – remained conspicuously absent from the funding race, causing the state to lose some of its top scientific talent to other states with more favorable stem cell research policies. Despite strong support from the New York State Assembly, legislative efforts to direct New York State money to embryonic stem cell research continually failed.

After years of stalled progress in New York, and to the resounding satisfaction of NYAMR, Governor Spitzer came into office and immediately placed the issue of funding for stem cell research at the top of his agenda. On March 31, 2007, the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor Paterson and other lawmakers passed legislation to fund stem cell and regenerative medicine research in the state of New York. The legislation



created the Empire State Stem Cell Board, consisting of a Funding Committee and an Ethics Committee, and the Empire State Stem Cell Trust which, over the next decade, will provide \$600 million in state funds for stem cell research, beginning with an appropriation of \$100 million for FY 2007-08, followed by \$50 million each year for the next ten years.

In the short time since this legislation passed, New York State has made great strides towards funding stem cell research. Most appointments to the Empire State Stem Cell Board have been made, and the Board held its first meeting last month. The Board has already begun the process of determining eligibility criteria and soliciting requests for stem cell research grants and is poised to begin distributing funds to eligible institutions. Given the time constraints, the Board does not expect to fully spend the \$100 million appropriated in FY 2007-08 this year. However, as the Board becomes fully operational over the next several months, it has every intention of awarding funds to eligible institutions totaling any unspent portion of the \$100 million, plus the additional \$50 million that has been authorized for FY 2008-09. As the program grows in the coming years, we anticipate that the Board will require an additional \$50 million per year to meet what we expect will be an increase in capital needs of the participating New York institutions.



On behalf of NYAMR, I applaud the Spitzer Administration for its support and leadership of the past year and urge it to ensure that the \$50 million authorized for stem cell research is included in the FY 2008-09 Budget, and also to re-appropriate the \$100 million in funds from FY 2007-08. A continued funding commitment by New York will help improve the quality of life for New Yorkers and will position the state as a world leader in stem cell research.