



The IASCR regrets the August 23, 2010 decision issued by Chief Judge Royce C. Lamberth of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia to freeze federal funding of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research. The IASCR was established to facilitate coordination among states that wish to advance stem cell research. Over the past four years, member states have worked across state borders to ensure the efficient development of effective stem cell research programs nationally.

The membership recognizes the vital role the NIH plays in advancing research nationally. Dr. Geoffrey Lomax, IASCR co-chair, described the decision as a setback for the field. “We see first hand how recently expanded NIH funding is serving to build on the success of established state programs. The funding freeze is a tremendous setback for patients and the research community.”

IASCR co-chair Melissa Lopes characterized the decision as “a disturbing development with a number of implications for research generally.” Co-chair Lopes expressed concern that disruptions in funding may undermine the “strategic investment in human and research capital” that has occurred since 2008.

IASCR will continue its efforts to advance stem cell research by fostering effective interstate collaboration, by assisting states in developing research programs, and by promoting efficient and responsible use of public funds.

Contact:

glomax@cirm.ca.gov

415-396-9134