

**New York State Department of Health
Request for Information
RFI: Promoting Scientific Advancement in Stem Cells Through Consortia
(FAU# 0904270847)**

Purpose:

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather feedback from scientists, clinicians and administrators who have experience working in multi-institutional research programs (hereafter referred to as "consortia"). The information gathered as a result of this RFI may be used to develop one or more Requests for Applications (RFAs) for the purpose of supporting consortia related to stem cell research and development of novel therapeutic applications.

Background:

In April 2007, legislation was enacted creating the Empire State Stem Cell Board (ESSCB) and authorizing the investment of \$600 million in State funding over the next 11 years. The ESSCB is authorized to provide grants for basic, applied, translational and other research designed to advance scientific discoveries in fields related to stem cell biology.

New York State Stem Cell Science (NYSTEM) is a program of the New York State Department of Health, whose purpose is to administer stem cell research funding based on recommendations and advice from the ESSCB. Information about the ESSCB and NYSTEM can be found at: <http://stemcell.ny.gov>.

Among the goals of the ESSCB is the promotion of collaboration and communication among New York State institutions through the creation of one or more consortia that would establish New York as an attractive location for stem cell research, development and commercialization. In order to develop appropriate RFAs, NYSTEM is gathering information about the structure and administration of consortia that help them function effectively. The data collected will be presented to the ESSCB and may inform drafting of subsequent RFAs.

Information Requested:

- Name:
- Affiliation:
- Position:
- Phone Number:
- e-Mail Address:
- Are you now, or have you ever been, part of a scientific consortium? If so, please describe it briefly.

Based on your experience, please provide comprehensive answers to as many of the following questions as possible:

- What are the key aspects of consortia that make them succeed or fail? Briefly explain your response.
- What kinds of administrative structure and oversight are required for successful consortia? Briefly explain your response.
- What is the minimum number of institutions that should participate in a consortium? In a consortium funded by NYSTEM, what fraction of participating institutions should be in New York State? Briefly explain your response.

- Assuming an annual NYSTEM budget of \$50 million per year, what proportion of funds should be committed to consortia? What is the appropriate maximum funding (annual total funding and number of years) that should be committed to an individual consortium? Briefly explain your response.
- Within consortia, what percentage of funding should be allocated to research and what percentage to other activities? Identify these other activities and the percentage of funding they should receive. Briefly explain your response.
- Should a consortia RFA be targeted to specific diseases with teams designed to move along the translational pipeline, or be open to any important problem in stem cell research and its applications? Briefly explain your response.
- What are the most effective means to ensure that funded consortia promote exchange of ideas, data and resources among members? Briefly explain your response.
- What role, if any, should NYSTEM play in facilitating the goals of consortia? Briefly explain your response.
- Is the involvement of for-profit organizations in consortia appropriate? Should such involvement be a requirement? Briefly explain your response.
- Please provide any additional input you think might be useful.

Responses:

Responses are required by 2:00 PM Eastern Daylight Savings Time on July 31, 2009.

Please send responses electronically to: rficonpl@health.state.ny.us

or by mail to:

NYSTEM
Consortia RFI
NYS Department of Health
Room C345
Empire State Plaza
PO Box 509
Albany, NY 12201-0509

Results:

Information from the responses to this RFI **may** be used by the Department of Health/NYSTEM and ESSCB to develop one or more RFAs, although no guarantee can be made that any such request will be issued. THIS IS NOT A SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS.