

RFI # 16141

**New York State Department of Health  
and the  
Empire State Stem Cell Board**

**Request for Information**

**Translational Research Projects in Stem Cell  
Science**

**RELEASE DATE:**

**5/8/2015**

**RESPONSES DUE:**

**6/8/2015 by 6:00 PM**

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**New York State Department of Health  
Request for Information (RFI)  
Translational Research Projects in Stem Cell Science**

**Purpose:**

Advances in stem cell research are encouraging scientists to translate basic research findings into specific applications. The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather feedback from those in the New York State scientific community who have pursued or are interested in pursuing translational research projects involving stem cells. 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 translational projects relating to stem cell research.

**Background:**

Now in its ninth year, the Empire State Stem Cell Board (ESSCB) is authorized to provide funding for basic, applied, translational and other research designed to advance scientific discoveries in fields related to stem cell biology.

NYSTEM, the New York State Stem Cell Science Program, is charged with administering stem cell research funding based on recommendations and advice from the ESSCB. In conjunction with NYSTEM, the ESSCB solicits, reviews, and makes funding recommendations for creative and innovative projects to be supported by the Empire State Stem Cell Trust Fund. Information about the ESSCB and NYSTEM can be found at <http://stemcell.ny.gov>.

The ESSCB expressly stated a desire to expand funding for translational research. To date, the sole funding mechanism specific to translational research has been the Consortium mechanism, which was issued twice and has resulted in six awards. There is a gap in funding mechanisms between the IIRP/IDEA mechanism, which funds primarily fundamental, hypothesis-driven research, and the Consortia mechanism, which requires robust proof of principle data. An additional translational research mechanism would offer more researchers the opportunity to advance their already well-substantiated basic research projects towards applications of such research, either through future rounds of Consortia or other mechanisms.

**Future Funding Mechanism Envisioned:**

The ESSCB is interested in supporting translational research as a specific part of the NYSTEM funding portfolio. A new funding mechanism is currently being considered which would:

- move basic stem cell-related research from exploratory and developmental studies to readiness for clinical or product development; and
- prepare already proven hypotheses for future application; and
- present a clear translational path to future application of the research; and
- provide a three year contract term with maximum annual direct costs of \$300,000 plus F&A costs of 20 percent of modified total direct costs.

A successful application would be well-substantiated and built on a robust background of basic stem cell-related research. It would present an already proven research hypothesis and prepare it for future development. The application would identify a specific clinical use/application and include a detailed translation plan that would further develop proof-of-principle and/or other preclinical data.

These awards would **not** support hypothesis driven research or the investigation of basic mechanistic questions, which would be appropriate for the IDEA or IRRP funding mechanisms offered by NYSTEM. Nor would these awards support the development of a clinical application, including IND filing or clinical trials, as would NYSTEM's Consortia mechanism.

**Information Request:**

NYSTEM is seeking information about potential translational stem cell projects in New York State that are in need of funding, the scope of work to be supported, and the amount of funding and length of time needed to move the project towards application.

Please complete and submit the attached Response Form no later than 6pm June 8, 2015 to [nystem@health.ny.gov](mailto:nystem@health.ny.gov). Your time and input are greatly appreciated.

The submitted information will be reviewed by NYSTEM and will be shared with other relevant New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) staff.

This RFI is for planning purposes only and should not be construed as a solicitation for applications or an obligation on the part of the NYSDOH. The NYSDOH will not pay for the preparation of any information submitted or for the use of that information.

The NYSDOH will use the information submitted in response to this RFI at its discretion and will not provide comments to any responder's submission. However, responses to the RFI may be reflected in future funding opportunity announcements. The information provided will be analyzed and may appear in reports. Respondents are advised that the NYSDOH is under no obligation to acknowledge receipt of the information or provide feedback to respondents with respect to any information submitted. No proprietary, classified, confidential, or sensitive information should be included in your response. The NYSDOH reserves the right to use any non-proprietary technical information in any resultant solicitation(s).