

**David S. Carlson, PhD**  
**Vice President for Research & Graduate Studies,**  
**Texas A&M Health Science Center**

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Invited Testimony  
Interim Charge #11: Human Stem Cell Research  
March 10, 2010

- 1. What kind of human stem cell research is being conducted at your institution?**
  - a. Adult stem cell research using cells obtained from tissues and organs such as bone marrow, fat tissue, and tooth pulp.
  - b. There is no human embryonic stem cell research currently being conducted at Texas A&M Health Science Center.
  - c. There are many studies of embryonic stem cells ongoing at the TAMHSC using the mouse as a model.
  
- 2. How many research projects involving human stem cells are currently being conducted?**
  - a. Five projects, all of which involve adult stem cells only.
  - b. No projects using embryonic human stem cells.
  
- 3. What is the total amount spent on these human stem cell research projects?**

\$3,541,894 in research funding all from sources other than state appropriations.
  
- 4. How much General Revenue do you spend on all research each fiscal year?**

\$12.5 million for FY 2009 (Total R&D includes both research expenditures and infrastructure-facilities support from State funds)
  
- 5. How much General Revenue do you spend on human stem cell research each fiscal year?**

\$0 (no state appropriations are spent directly on human stem cell research projects; though state funds do go to support the infrastructure for some of the physical spaces/laboratories where such research is conducted)
  
- 6. What factors would need to be considered to determine how much of the total cost of these human stem cell efforts is spent on actual human stem cell research, and how much of the spending comes from state funds?**
  - a. Primary funding agency (source of funds)
  - b. Federal/private vs. state: It seems the total cost of human stem cell research would be reflected most closely in the costs attributable to research grants involving human stem cells from all sources. The state funds would thus be a subset of that amount.

**7. If the state is attempting to collect data on what human stem cell research is being funded by the state, do you have recommendations on how to achieve this?**

- a. All external research grants must be approved by institutional officials (department chair, dean, vice president for research) prior to submission through the grant routing process. The grant routing form is an internal document that TAMHSC uses to indicate approval of the grant by institutional officials before it is submitted.
- b. Among other things, the form is used to ensure that: a) there has been review and approval from appropriate compliance committees (e.g., animals, humans, biosafety, etc.); b) space is available for the research program; c) indirect costs are appropriate; and d) time/effort is approved. Officials should also use the grant routing form to review the subject matter, source of research materials, and source of funds for all projects as part of the grant routing process
- c. Questions could be inserted in the grant routing form to track whether or not human stem cells are being proposed for use.
- d. This information could be relayed to the state by the Vice President of Research as requested.