

November 5, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S- 230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Boehner:

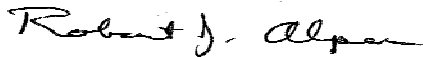
The undersigned leaders of academic medicine, who include medical school deans, teaching hospital CEOs, and academic society presidents, urge Congress to consider and pass the “Stem Cell Research Advancement Act” (H.R. 4808/S. 3766) when the Senate and House of Representatives reconvene in November. Congress must act before the end of the current session to approve this legislation to authorize and continue Federal support for human embryonic stem cell research while adhering to strict federal oversight and standards. In accordance with current law, the legislation ensures that no Federal funding shall be used to derive stem cells or destroy embryos.

The discovery of human embryonic stem cells is a significant research advance and Federal support to U.S. researchers is essential both to translate this discovery into novel therapies for a range of serious and intractable diseases, and to ensure that this research is conducted under a rigorous and credible ethical regime. The therapeutic potential of human embryonic stem cells is remarkable and could well prove to be one of the most significant paradigm-shifting advances in the history of medical science. These cells have the unique potential to differentiate into any human cell type and offer real hope of life-affirming treatments for diabetes, damaged heart tissue, arthritis, Parkinson's, ALS and spinal cord injuries, to name but a few examples. There is also the possibility that these cells could be used to create more complex organ structures that could replace diseased vital organs, such as kidneys, livers, or even hearts.

We recognize the significant ethical issues that are raised by human embryonic stem cell research and we respect the view of those who oppose such research, including some in our own academic medical community. However, we are persuaded otherwise by what we believe is an equally compelling ethical consideration, namely, that it would be tragic to waste the unique potential afforded by embryonic stem cells, derived from embryos destined to be discarded in any case, to alleviate human suffering and enhance the quality of human life.

This legislation, which has received strong bipartisan support in previous Congresses, recognizes the need to authorize and continue Federal support of research on human embryonic stem cells so that the tremendous scientific and medical benefits of their use may one day become available to the millions of patients who so desperately need them. Again, we urge you to put this legislation on the floor calendar and pass it when Congress returns in November to help ensure the potential of this research is translated into treatments and cures.

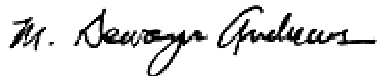
Sincerely,



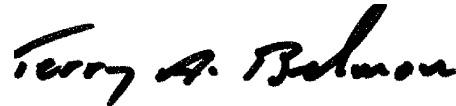
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Provost, Boston University Medical Campus



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Dean
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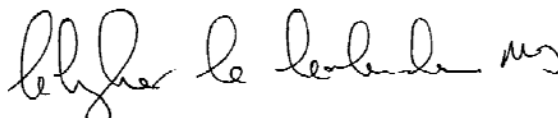
Barbara Atkinson, M.D.
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Executive Dean, School of Medicine



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Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences and
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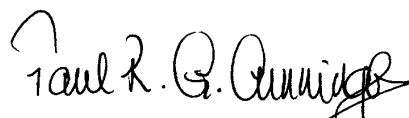
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President and Dean
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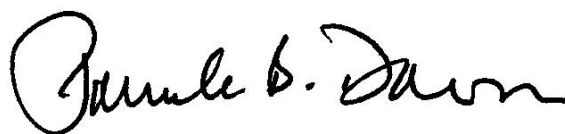
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Kenneth L. Davis, M.D.
President and CEO
The Mount Sinai Medical Center



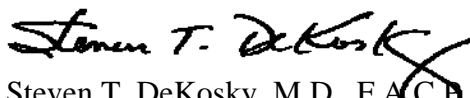
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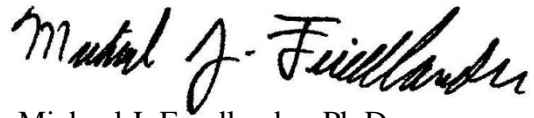
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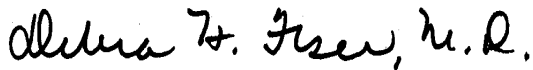
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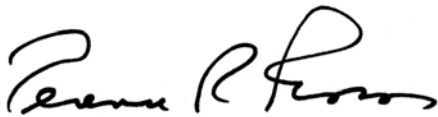
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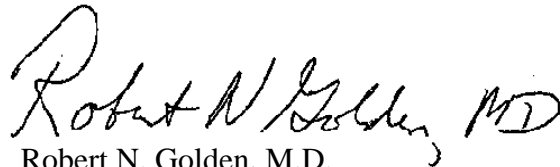
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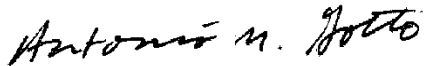
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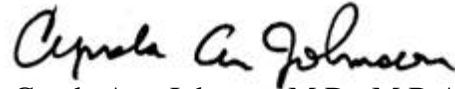
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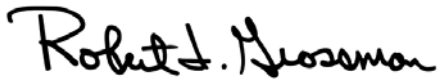
Peter Jensen, M.D.
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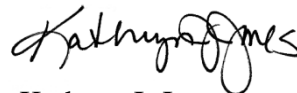
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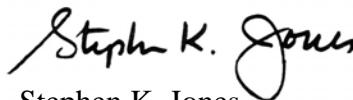
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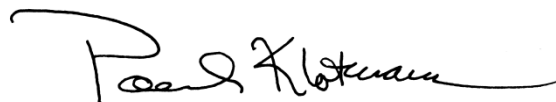
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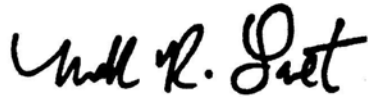
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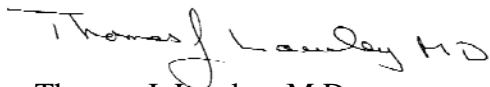
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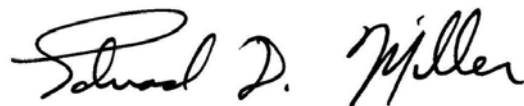
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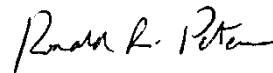
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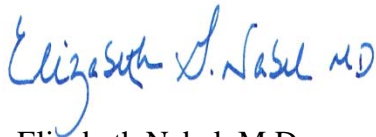
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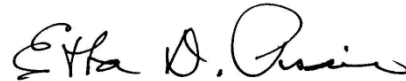
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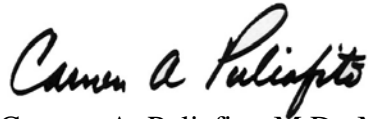
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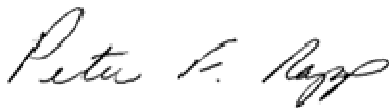
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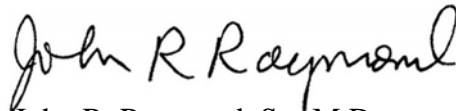
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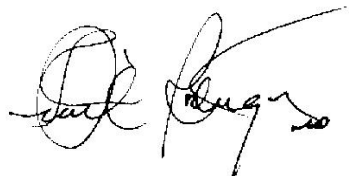
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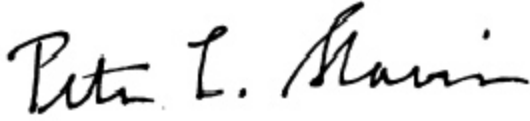
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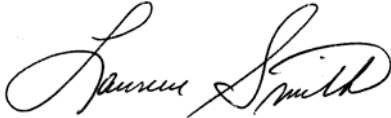
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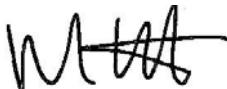
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The Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean
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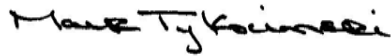
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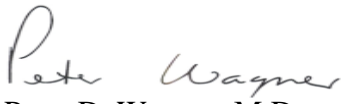
Emery A. Wilson, MD
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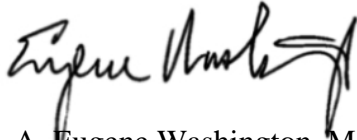
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