

findings

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEBRASKANS FOR RESEARCH



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER 2005

Nebraskans for Research Announces New Public Advocacy Arm of Organization

To step up efforts in the public advocacy arena, Nebraskans for Research has organized a new organization called *Research NEBRASKA!*

This new organization has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service as a 501 (c)(4). That means NFR's *Research NEBRASKA!* has more flexibility with contributions to pay for direct lobby and grassroots lobby services to advocate in the Nebraska Legislature and at the federal level, but with no tax deduction for contributors.

NFR will continue its goal of education on research issues through our Non-profit organization. With the addition of *Research NEBRASKA!* we can now expand our resources and work to protect medical research in Nebraska with an even stronger presence.

Please review the following options for your NFR giving this fall. A membership mailing will be sent to you soon.

Nebraskans for Research Non-profit Organization: organized as a 501(c)(3) under the IRS Code where contributions are tax deductible. This arm of NFR hosts education forums, an annual luncheon honoring individuals who have played significant roles in medical research and promotion of paid and earned media and a new website to educate Nebraskans.

Research NEBRASKA! : organized as a 501(c)(4) under the IRS Code where contributions are not tax deductible. This new organization allows the flexibility of raising funds directly for advocacy in the Nebraska Legislature without the restrictions as a non-profit organization. This advocacy arm will support lobby expenses at the state and federal levels as needed, produce advocacy materials and legislative activity updates for members. The addition of *Research NEBRASKA!* will allow us to grow even more and ensure we have the financial resources to build a strong state effort to find lifesaving cures.

Giving to one or both of these organizations will promote our goals to educate and advocate in support of medical research. Please see the enclosed response card as you consider a contribution. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call 402-475-0727. Again, thank you for your past and future support.

Economic Development and Medical Research:

Did you know . . .

For every one million dollars of research funding in the State of Nebraska 29.5 jobs are created. Over the past five years University of Nebraska Medical Center has brought into Nebraska the following amounts of research funding, corresponding into significant numbers of jobs.

- 2001: \$116.6 million in research funding creating 3,439 jobs
- 2002: \$145.9 million in research funding creating 4,304 jobs
- 2003: \$142.6 million in research funding creating 4,206 jobs
- 2004: \$151.4 million in research funding creating 4,466 jobs
- 2005: \$157.8 million in research funding creating 4,655 jobs

Statistics from University of Nebraska Lincoln, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research.

Legislative Report to NFR Members

Historic...Volatile...Unprecedented...Dangerous... All adjectives that can be used to describe the upcoming session of the Nebraska Legislature. Not since the inception of the nation's only non-partisan one-house Legislature has Nebraska witnessed the "wholesale" turnover of its Legislative Branch of State Government. Following this next session of the Legislature approximately 40% of the current members will be departing. For those of us that value experience, who believe that wisdom and judgment are important. The passage of a constitutional amendment that removed the right of Nebraska citizens to hire or dispatch their representatives on a periodic basis was not, as claimed, a victory for democracy, but rather its antithesis.

Time will be the judge of term limits; we will be challenged to preserve this unique democratic experiment known as the Unicameral. But before we do, we have a 60 day Legislative Session commencing January 4, 2006 that will be debating prohibitions and criminal sanctions against ethical biomedical research.

Nebraskans for Research is the voice of Nebraskans for science and against ignorance. When it comes to scientific research our community has two democratically elected bodies that serve as venues where we will decide whether Nebraska is about the future, about hope, about knowledge and about preserving life. The Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska and the Nebraska Unicameral are the two public bodies that provide our state with the opportunity to decide our direction as a society on issues of scientific discovery. Nebraskans are blessed with highly trained and dedicated medical personnel throughout our vast state, many of whom come from our internationally respected medical schools. Nebraskans for Research is the

voice of these professionals and their patients. We are called upon to engage our citizen institutions in this debate...we must not fail in our persuasion.

Too this end, the Board of Nebraskans for Research and their advisors have embarked upon a grassroots effort to educate and persuade people about the importance of being engaged in this public debate. We have conducted public policy seminars with the leading biomedical researchers in the world. We have honored our own. We have built a web based information system that provides all our supporters with up to date information about the status of state, federal, and international policy developments in biomedical research. We have supported legislative leaders in their attempts to thwart regressive public policy in the area of biomedical research.

This January you will be called upon to join with all the members of Nebraskans for Research in urging the Nebraska Unicameral to support ethical biomedical research and oppose efforts that would seek to cripple our medical researchers with the passage of draconian criminal sanctions against legitimate scientific discovery. You and Nebraskans for Research are the hope for a healthier tomorrow. The Nebraska Legislature is where our community will decide about whether we are a people of healing and hope or ignorance.

Come January, please join with us in participating in that great democratic experiment known as the Nebraska Unicameral. For more information on how you can help or if you have questions please contact us at 402/475-0727.

Rich Lombardi, Registered Lobbyist

Statement From The Coalition For The Advancement Of Medical Research (CAMR) Concerning The New World Stem Cell Hub

The announcement of a World Stem Cell Hub in Seoul, South Korea is a significant biotechnology milestone and indicates that many of the world's most advanced economies are getting serious about stem cell research to cure human diseases. Unfortunately, the U.S. finds itself marginalized as this important development unfolds due to anti-science policies either already in place or threatened by the federal government and several states.

The World Stem Cell Hub reflects the rapidly-progressing field of embryonic stem cell research and regenerative medicine

and also demonstrates the need for international standards governing the creation of embryonic stem cells, as well as reliable means of storage and shipping to scientists worldwide. These standards however, are being largely developed without significant U.S. influence.

Having additional stem cell lines available to researchers will advance scientific understanding of currently incurable diseases and will help speed the discovery of cures and therapies for patients everywhere. However, seven U.S. states have criminalized research using stem cells de-

rived through therapeutic cloning, while others are considering similar bills, and federal legislation has already passed the U.S. House of Representatives with a similar version pending in the Senate. This hostile environment casts a cloud over valuable medical research and continues to keep our best scientists sidelined from the most promising field of research in modern medicine.

Adapted from the following source: Statement from Daniel Perry, President of The Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR)

Nebraskans for Research is a state-wide citizens group.

Nebraskans for Research was formed in September 2000 to provide a positive voice in support of the continued development of medical research in Nebraska. Its members all share the belief that Nebraskans should continue to enjoy the superior quality of life benefits flowing from the state's medical research institutions. Nebraskans for Research advocates making medical research a top investment priority for Nebraska and recognizes the importance of medical research leadership to our overall quality of life and the development of business and job growth.

Our mission is to promote awareness in the community of:

- * the accomplishments of Nebraska-based medical and health research and the quality of life benefits it provides;
- * how such research contributes to Nebraska's current and future economic development; and
- * the importance of private sector and government funding, in an environment of free and open inquiry, in pursuing and expanding such research.

NFR will accomplish its mission through programs centered on education and advocacy.

Education

Forum Series - NFR produces a forum series designed to highlight the efforts and accomplishments of Nebraska-based medical researchers. These provide the public the opportunity to hear from scientists and clinicians at the forefront of medical research in their fields first-hand or through NFR-produced videos.

Special Events - NFR will sponsor special programs around topics of current interest. These may include a symposium on closing the gap of understanding between scientists and journalists, lectures on topics in bioethics and research and recognition events for Nebraska-based medical researchers.

Research - NFR will commission and publicize studies to help illustrate the impact of medical research on the health and economy of Nebraska, and to provide information on challenges and public policy that impact the medical research enterprise.

Science Education Support - NFR is developing programs to provide additional resources to science educators in Nebraska schools to increase awareness among Nebraska youth of educational and career opportunities available in science and technology in Nebraska, especially in the life sciences, and to encourage them to pursue science education.

Advocacy

Funding - NFR is a voice for adequate funding of medical research. While much research is conducted with private funds, public funding is the backbone of the basic research effort, which is vital to continued progress against disease.

Issues - NFR is a voice for responsible medical research, based on sound science, potential for alleviation of suffering and broadly held social values.

For more information or to schedule a presentation to your organization on medical research, contact Sanford Goodman at smg@nebraskansforresearch.org.

Contribute to Medical Research Today!

Select both options, or just one, to continue support for life-saving research.

2006 NFR Membership

Make checks payable to: NFR

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|
| _____ Basic | \$25 | _____ Gold | \$250 |
| _____ Bronze | \$50 | _____ Platinum | \$500 |
| _____ Silver | \$100 | _____ Other | _____ |

Research NEBRASKA!

Make checks payable to: Research NEBRASKA!

My check for \$ _____ is enclosed.

Name _____ Business (if applicable) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____
 Email _____ Phone _____

Paid for by NE for Research and Research NEBRASKA!
 1044 H Street, Lincoln, NE 68508

For your tax purposes, contributions to NFR:
 We would like to note that you have not received any
 goods or services in exchange for your donation.

Contributions to Research NEBRASKA! are not tax deductible.

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