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**GOV. MALLOY ANNOUNCES AWARD OF STEM CELL RESEARCH FUNDS**

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Dannel P. Malloy today announced the award of $9.8 million in stem cell research funds to 23 Connecticut–based researchers.  The awards were made by the State of Connecticut Stem Cell Research Advisory Committee at its Monday grant review meeting in Farmington.

“Connecticut’s investment in stem cells continues to position the state on the cutting edge of biomedical research,” said Governor Malloy.  “These grants are critical to keeping and recruiting top scientists and help make possible innovative research that serves to improve people’s lives.”

One hundred and nine stem cell fund applications were received in January 2013. The Connecticut Stem Cell Research Peer Review Committee reviewed these applications in accordance with National Institutes of Health guidelines and provided to the Advisory Committee its recommendations with respect to the scientific merits of each application.

“Connecticut’s stem cell program continues to fund some of the best basic and advanced stem cell research,” said Department of Public Health Commissioner and Advisory Committee Chairperson Dr. Jewel Mullen.  “This cutting-edge research holds great promise for clinical applications that will help address a number of significant health challenges.”

**The following awards were made by the Connecticut Stem Cell Advisory Committee:**

*Next Generation Bone Graft Substitute Through Osteogenic Differentiation of hMSC by a Small Molecule*

University of Connecticut Health Center

Wai Hong Lo (Kevin)

$200,000

*Differentiating Human Embryonic Stem Cells Down the Axial Skeletal Lineage*

University of Connecticut Health Center

Peter Maye

$200,000

*Specification of Poised Epigenomic Marks in ES Cells*

University of Connecticut Health Center

$200,000

*Establishing an Epigenetic Memory of Tissue-Specific Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells for Superior Chondrogenic Differentiation Capacity*

University of Connecticut Health Center

Rosa Guzzo

$200,000

*Vascular Growth Factor Signaling in Human Neural Stem Cells*

Yale University

Jean-Leon Thomas

$200,000

*Hypoxia and Maintenance of Human Cancer Stem Cells*

Yale University

Zhong Yun

$200,000

*Testing the Oxidative Stress Theory of Ataxia-Telangiectasia Pathology Using Induced Pluripotent Stem Cells*

Yale University

Gerald Shadel

$200,000

*Characterize Nuclear Lamina-Associated Chromatin in Human ES Cells*

Yale University

Jie Yao

$200,000

*Elucidating the Role of Stem Cells in the Skin Tumor Pilomatricoma by In Vivo Imaging*

Yale University

Panteleimon Rompolas

$200,000

*Modeling Chronic Pain Condition with iPS Cells from Patients with “Man on Fire” Syndrome for Better Pharmaco-Genomic Analysis and Drug Testing*

Yale University

Stephen Waxman

$200,000

*The Role of Adipocyte Stem Cell in Lymphatic Vessel Differentiation*

Yale University

Nancy Ruddle

$200,000

*Cell Therapy with ISL1+ Cardiac Progenitor Cells for Cardiac Repair After Myocardial Infarction*

Yale University

Oscar Bartulos

$200,000

*Potential of Human Pluripotent Stem Cell Derived Mesenchymal Cells for Lung Tissue Engineering*

Yale University

Sumati Sundaram

$200,000

*Human ES-Derived Neuronal Cell Culture Systems for Investigating West Nile Virus Pathogenesis*

Yale University

Priti Kumar

$200,000

*Generation of Customized Anti-Tumor T Cells from Human Pluripotent Stem Cells (hPS) Derived Embryoid Bodies (EB) for Immunotherapy of Human Melanoma*

University of Connecticut Health Center

Arvind Chhabra

$600,000

*Using hESCs and iPSCs to Test the Significance of Hereditary Cancer-Associated Variants*

University of Connecticut Health Center

Christopher Heinen

$750,000

*Uncovering Molecular Pathways Disrupted in Prader-Willi Syndrome*

University of Connecticut Health Center

Kristen Martins-Taylor

$750,000

*Pluripotency and Heterochromatin Topology*

Yale University

Tae Hoon Kim

$750,000

*Improving the Fidelity of Human iPSC with Epigenetic and Chemical Genetic Approaches*

Yale University

Andrew Xiao

$532,500

*HESC-Derived GABAergic Neurons for Epilepsy Therapy*

Wesleyan University

Janice Naegele

$1,488,229

*Developing a Potential Therapy for Multiple Sclerosis Using hESC-derived MSCs*

ImStem Biotechnology

Ren-He Xu

$1,129,271

*UConn-Wesleyan Stem Cell Core*

University of Connecticut Health Center

Ren-He Xu

$500,000

*Continued Service and Technology Development at the Yale Stem Cell Center Cores*

Yale University

Haifan Lin

$500,000

For additional information, please visit [www.ct.gov/dph/stemcell](http://www.ct.gov/dph/stemcell)