

For Immediate Release
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Governor Doyle Announces Partnership to Recruit, Retain Stem Cell Companies

New Research Agreement and State Grants Will Keep Wisconsin at the Forefront

MILWAUKEE – Governor Doyle today announced a historic stem cell research partnership agreement that will pave the way for thousands of stem cell research jobs in Wisconsin. The Governor also announced new state financial incentives to help lure companies to our state, and help achieve his goal of capturing 10 percent of the stem cell market by 2015.

“Wisconsin – the birthplace of stem cell research – is giving millions of families hope that one day diseases like Parkinson’s, Alzheimer’s and Juvenile Diabetes may be conquered,” Governor Doyle said. “These breakthroughs in medical science can transform our economy and open our doors to the high-paying jobs of the future. This agreement, combined with the new financial incentives we are offering, will help us tap the vast potential of this industry.”

Specifically, the Doyle administration has reached an agreement with the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF), which holds patents and royalty rights on some of the most promising stem cell lines in the world. Under this agreement, all companies conducting research at non-profit and academic institutions located in Wisconsin will receive a free non-exclusive research license under the stem cell patents held by WARF for that sponsored research. In other words, they will not have to pay royalty fees to WARF for that research that would be required if the research was conducted in another state. The agreement will give the state a significant competitive advantage over California and other states.

“WARF and WiCell are proud to support this initiative to keep Wisconsin at the forefront of this exciting research,” said Elizabeth Donley, Executive Director of WiCell and Special Counsel to WARF.

Governor Doyle announced the agreement as part of an incentive package designed to keep Wisconsin at the pinnacle of stem cell research and development. In addition to this agreement, the Governor’s stem cell incentive package also includes:

Stem cell companies that locate or expand in Wisconsin will be eligible for up to \$250,000 in grants.

All licensed companies in Wisconsin will receive free distribution on the lines that WARF holds patents on and personnel of all licensed companies will be eligible for free stem cell training courses offered by WARF.

Wisconsin will certify early-stage stem cell companies as eligible for angel and venture capital investment tax credits.

There will be a new stem cell development specialist in the Wisconsin Entrepreneur's Network to support companies that wish to start or locate in Wisconsin.

The state will assist companies with accessing the Wisconsin Angel Network and identifying incubators with wet lab space.

Wisconsin and WARF will also work with other organizations to ensure that this initiative is part of statewide economic development efforts.

Experts predict that the market for stem cell products could reach \$10 billion over the next ten years, translating into more than 100,000 jobs. In April, Governor Doyle set out to capture 10 percent of that market to ensure Wisconsin keeps its status as the leader and pioneer in stem cell research and development, and add tens of thousands high-end biotechnology jobs.

Currently, Wisconsin has a biotechnology workforce of 22,000 that generates nearly \$7 billion for the economy.