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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Michigan Stem Cell Group to Get National Award for Educating about Hope, Cures

At World Stem Cell Summit, MCSCRC to receive prize for highlighting importance of research

SOUTHFIELD – **Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research & Cures**, the group that reached into virtually every community in Michigan to educate people about the science, potential cures, and policies regarding stem cell research, will receive a national award for its unrelenting educational efforts since its formation in 2006. MCSCRC will receive the Education Award from the Genetics Policy Institute on Sep. 22 at the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit in Baltimore, Md.

“This award honors the true heroes behind the fight for hope and cures in Michigan: The patients, doctors, researchers and educators who worked tirelessly to inform the residents of Michigan about stem cell research and its potential to revolutionize medical treatment,” **MCSCRC** Managing Director **Sophia Eichner** said. “MCSCRC is proud to receive this award from the Genetics Policy Institute. We’re prouder still that Michigan is finally in position to turn some of the most critical discoveries being made in our research facilities into cures and treatments that can help countless patients and their families.”

MCSCRC is dedicated to educating the citizens of Michigan, including public officials and policy makers, about the complex science, the biomedical potential and the current policies affecting stem cell research in Michigan. In three years, MCSCRC engaged in over 300 presentations, 10 radio programs and 11 cable and TV shows for a statewide educational program that reached over 2 million citizens throughout the state. Embryonic stem cell research has the potential to unlock cures for a range of devastating incurable diseases, such as juvenile diabetes, Parkinson’s, spinal cord injuries and more. In the November 2008 election, Michigan voters approved a proposal that strengthens both embryonic stem cell research in Michigan as well as protections and regulations.

“I am most grateful for this award on behalf of the MCSCRC team, hundreds of volunteers and the citizens of the state of Michigan for embracing stem cell research and its tremendous promise to save lives,” said **MCSCRC**’s previous executive director, **Marcia Baum**. “The statewide education effort was a victory of fact over fiction, of hope over fear and most importantly, a victory for hundreds of thousands of Michigan patients and their families.”

“It is gratifying and fitting that GPI will honor MCSCRC to recognize its heroic efforts to educate Michigan citizens regarding the challenges and opportunities of stem cell research,” said **Sean Morrison**, director of the **University of Michigan**’s Center for Stem Cell Biology. The successful passage of Proposal 2 in November’s election makes Michigan one of only three states that now protect and regulate stem cell research in the state constitution.”

Cathy Coury, a west Michigan mother whose two sons have juvenile diabetes, said: “As a parent of three amazing children, two of whom have juvenile diabetes, I am proud to be a part of a grassroots organization whose mission to inform Michigan citizens was a huge factor in changing our state law to allow a broader range

of stem cell research. Congratulations MCSCRC and thank you for all of your educational efforts.” Coury is executive director of the **Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Western Michigan**.

The 2009 World Stem Cell Summit is presented by GPI and hosted by Johns Hopkins University, the University System of Maryland, University of Maryland-Baltimore, Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development, Maryland Technology Development Corporation and Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.

For more information about MCSCRC, visit www.stemcellresearchformichigan.com

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