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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Federal stem cell ruling places roadblock to hope for cures for Michiganders

SOUTHFIELD — A federal judge's injunction blocking the expansion of newly derived stem cell lines has serious implications for the future of stem cell research in Michigan, the board president of Michigan Citizens for Stem Cell Research and Cures said today.

The injunction, issued earlier this week by U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth, places a roadblock for potential treatments and cures for destructive illnesses and diseases, said **Sheri Mark**, president of the board of MCSCRC.

"The judge's ruling goes beyond even Bush's restrictions on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research," Mark said. "If allowed to stand, researchers will lose their grants and all progress on embryonic stem cell research would come to a chilling halt. This would be devastating for patients and families whose only hope is the potential of embryonic stem cell research."

**Sean Morrison**, director of the University of Michigan Center for Stem Cell Biology and one of the world's leading stem cell researchers, said: "If this ruling is interpreted to block the funding of existing grants, and if the ruling cannot be lifted soon, it will do irreparable harm to the field. The judge made a very serious error by thinking that his ruling would not harm embryonic stem cell researchers, but would only preserve the status quo. However, this ruling will do greater harm to these researchers than any policy ever enacted."

"This ruling is potentially devastating to the American biotechnology industry in the rapid growth area of regenerative medicine," said **James Eliason**, executive director of the Stem Cell Commercialization Center at Wayne State University's business incubator, known as TechTown. "Foreign companies already have a 10-year lead on U.S. companies because of the restriction during the administration of President Bush. This ruling could put the U.S. out of the market entirely."

**Danny Heumann**, president of Heumannly Capable and a strong patient advocate for stem cell research, said he was "devastated" when he saw the decision.

"This ruling could dash the hopes of millions of people who suffer every day," Heumann said.

Mark said MCSCRC will work with the scientific and business communities to help Michigan residents understand the truth about the ruling's devastating effects.

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