

**University of South Florida  
Office of Research**

**Response to Data Request:  
Constitutional Amendment Petition – Stem Cell Research  
(Amended)**

"The FIEC is required by s. 100.371, Florida Statutes, to review, analyze, and estimate the *financial impact* of amendments to or revisions of the State Constitution proposed by initiative. In this regard, the FIEC is now in the process of preparing financial impact statements to be placed on the ballot that show the estimated increase or decrease in any revenues or costs to state and local governments resulting from this proposed initiative. Please review the following questions, and provide any relevant funding information by noon Thursday, December 7."

- 1) Does your Institution currently conduct experimentations/research that will be impacted by this amendment? If so, please provide detail along with fiscal information.

The University of South Florida currently has one researcher, Dr. Kenneth Zuckerman, actually growing two different, approved human embryonic stem cell (HESC) lines in his lab to determine optimal growing conditions. Plans are in place to do actual experiments on these cells next month (January 2007). This research will tie into a multimillion-dollar federal award that is anticipated to start in the next few months. This grant could be jeopardized by this amendment, if passed. Multiple new technologies are anticipated to be achieved with this grant, and thus also in jeopardy is the intellectual property and spin-offs that will be developed and transferred to the health care industry.

The salaries of our researchers currently working in HESC, or preparing to do so, total \$1.5 million.

- 2) Does your Institution have state funded staff that in any way could be impacted by this amendment? If so, to what extent?

Yes, with certainty, the researcher noted above (Dr. Kenneth Zuckerman). In addition, two additional state-funded USF researchers are interested in working with human embryonic stem cells: Dr. William Kerr and Dr. David Keefe. This initiative would prevent anyone who receives any salary support from the state or who is in a lab owned and operated by the University or the USF-affiliated H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute from working on human embryonic stem cells.

A third group of world renowned USF neuroscientists, currently conducting stem-cell research using human umbilical cord, is moving in the direction of HESC research in order to ensure a comprehensive research program with the most broad-reaching results possible.

- 3) Is there any other area of your Institution that might be impacted by this amendment?

Broad restrictions would prevent anyone in Florida from collaborating with anyone outside Florida on projects in which another investigator is actually handling the embryonic stem cells, but where the Florida researcher is doing some of the studies on products of those

embryonic stem cells or performing any aspect of research that would make a Florida researcher a co-author on a manuscript or abstract that contains any work that involved embryonic stem cells in a collaborating lab. The amendment would certainly impact faculty recruitment negatively.

This type of restriction would have a chilling effect on recruitment of a broad spectrum of investigators—not just those actually doing embryonic stem cell research, but also anyone who would be concerned about the anti-research attitudes behind such a restriction and enforced by State government.

**GENERAL IMPACT:** Research programs will be prevented from developing novel approaches to the treatment of a number of devastating diseases and disorders. Inability to continue research programs in this area reduces or eliminates the ability of researchers/universities to secure important NIH and DOD contracts and grants and to move important discoveries into pre-clinical and clinical applications.