

UT Southwestern Medical Center
Response to Information Requested
by the Senate Health & Human Services Committee

Interim Charge #11: Human Stem Cell Research
March 10, 2010

- 1. What kind of human stem cell research is being conducted at your institution?**
UT Southwestern has several laboratories that engage in investigations of tissue-specific stem cells involved in cardiac regeneration and adult hematopoietic stem cells. These questions relate primarily to investigation of mechanisms for restoration of damaged organs. UT Southwestern is not doing any human embryonic stem cell research.
- 2. How many research projects involving human stem cells are currently being conducted?**
27 projects involving human stem cells, but not embryonic.
- 3. What is the total amount spent on these human stem cell research projects?**
While the total amount is unknown, most research projects are paid with competitive federal and philanthropic grants, and not state funds.
- 4. How much General Revenue do you spend on all research each fiscal year?**
Typically, state dollars are not targeted toward specific research and more specific information is needed to accurately address this question, but an approximation is \$46,058,076 in FY 2008 and \$45,989,401 in FY 2009. At UT Southwestern, the vast majority of our Special Item funding from the State is used to seed research, including support for researcher salaries, graduate student stipends and vitally-needed research infrastructure.
- 5. How much General Revenue do you spend on human stem cell research each fiscal year?**
General Revenue is not spent on specific research projects. Research projects are typically supported with federal and private grants competitively secured for the targeted research purpose. General Revenue is commonly used to support faculty salaries and research infrastructure, but such support is unrelated to specific research interests.
- 6. What factors would need to be considered to determine how much of the total cost of these human stem cell efforts is spent on actual human stem cell research, and how much of the spending comes from state funds?**
In order to determine the above, there would need to be:

 - i. Better definition of what is meant by stem cell research. Specifically, is the focus human embryonic stem cell investigation?
 - ii. Definition of whether faculty salary support from state dollars that is unrelated to specific research interests applies to this question.
 - iii. Modifications of Health Related Institutions' accounting system to capture costs incurred on actual stem cell research. These modifications would capture costs by differing funding sources (federal, private), as well as state.

7. If the state is attempting to collect data on what human stem cell research is being funded by the state, do you have recommendations on how to achieve this?

In order to collect data on what stem cell research is being by the state, careful definition of the terms as described above is critical, since most adult stem cell work is not likely to be at issue. A far-reaching and costly modification of financial reporting systems to reflect costs incurred in stem cell research would also be needed.