

NYBA Executive Director Comments on Stem Cell Decision from White House

August 10 - Stony Brook, NY - The New York Biotechnology Association Executive Director Karin Duncker commented today on the statement from President Bush concerning stem cell research:

"We are encouraged that the door has been opened for further stem cell research. We hope that valuable research will not be hindered from limitations placed on this research."

At BIO, the national industry organization, Carl B. Feldbaum, BIO President issued this statement about President Bush's decision, "...As the President pointed out, advances in stem cell research could impact the lives of millions of desperately ill Americans who suffer from conditions for which there are no treatments, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, various cancers, diabetes and spinal cord injuries. The President's decision is a major step forward for patients and the biotechnology industry. "Among all the conditions that President Bush placed on this research with which we wholeheartedly agree, we have one reservation, which we believe will be worked out in time.

"Placing a limit on the number of cell lines available for this research may place roadblocks to medical progress, some of which may take years to overcome. This is a relatively new area of medical research, and to preemptively limit the pathways in which researchers are able to work so early in this process may well be detrimental, may cost years, and even lives. "It may take five to ten years for researchers to develop the full potential of stem cell research. In the meantime, we must not allow the discussion of ethical issues or this valuable research to come to a halt. Again, we are very pleased with President Bush's concern for both the need for this critical research to continue, and for the ethical questions involved to be continuously and thoughtfully considered."