



## ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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**CONTACT: Barry Toiv**  
**202-408-7500, [barry\\_toiv@aau.edu](mailto:barry_toiv@aau.edu)**

### **AAU STATEMENT ON NIH STEM CELL RESEARCH GUIDELINES**

*Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities (AAU), on the Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research issued today by National Institutes of Health (NIH).*

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With today's announcement of NIH's new Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research, President Obama's welcome changes in our national policy on embryonic stem cell research are now a reality.

NIH's final rules will enable scientists to pursue groundbreaking research that will transform our understanding of human development and disease and lead to long-awaited and hoped-for cures and therapies. The Guidelines also set out a transparent process to determine whether stem cell lines that were previously ineligible for NIH funding can be ruled eligible. NIH's decision to establish a new registry of stem cell lines eligible for NIH funding will speed research and assure the research community, patient advocates, and the American people that cell lines have been appropriately screened.

We appreciate that NIH addressed nearly 50,000 public comments on its proposed guidelines and issued final guidelines so swiftly. We look forward to working with NIH and the Administration to make up lost time for the most promising line of biomedical research in the new century.

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*The Association of American Universities ([www.aau.edu](http://www.aau.edu)) is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada organized to develop and implement effective national and institutional policies supporting research and scholarship, graduate, professional, and undergraduate education, and public service in research universities. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering.*