



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

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Room P&S10-451
630 W. 168th St. New York NY USA 10032

Date: February 25, 2021

Re: Written testimony in support of the NYSTEM program

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my deepest concern about the proposed termination of the New York State Stem Cell Science (NYSTEM) program.

By means of introduction, I am an Assistant Professor on the tenure track at Columbia University. I am a federally funded investigator who chose to establish my laboratory at Columbia University in the City of New York and NYSTEM was a top consideration in my decision to relocate here. Many people I spoke with while making the decision to move to Columbia University cited the importance of NYSTEM funding, and the talent and expertise that it attracts. The recruitment of Emmanuelle Passegué and others with her also speaks to the importance of this program in New York State, and the numerous translational findings that have arisen from stem cell research programs throughout the state speak to the importance of stem cell research in human health.

My laboratory currently employs 15 full-time New Yorkers, and my laboratory receives over a million dollars in federal funding annually. I applied to last year's RFA, as many of my colleagues also did, and was told recently that these applications will not be funded. This represents lost opportunity for me to establish new lines of investigation in my laboratory, employ more people, and ultimately make more basic science discoveries that impact human health. At a time when the importance of understanding basic mechanisms of disease and advancing therapeutic discoveries has been made so tragically clear to us, I feel that it would be a dire decision to terminate this program, which not only will provide employment opportunities for New York residents but will make fundamental advances in our understanding of human health and disease

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Emily Mace, PhD
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