

# findings

THE NEWSLETTER OF NEBRASKANS FOR RESEARCH



October/November 2006

## The Legislative Front

By Rich Lombardi, NFR Lobbyist

I just finished reading the September 2006 Nebraska Right to Life Newsletter dedicated to Cloning and Embryonic Stem-Cell Update. They were using comments that Regent Drew Miller made during a Board of Regents meeting and the debate in Missouri on stem cell research to 'rally' their troops. As you are reading this, the Right to Life community has begun a postcard writing campaign to the Nebraska Legislature to urge their passage of legislation that would basically 'criminalize' certain kinds of scientific research in the State of Nebraska.

We would be remiss not to mention that the Right to Life Newsletter is a compliment to all those who have built Nebraskans for Research. In a back handed way our opponents newsletter has complimented the success of your three years of advocacy work that has resulted in stopping their anti-scientific legislative proposals in the Nebraska Legislature. Your advocacy has kept Nebraska from becoming a State that discourages bio medical research.

Now, more than ever, we need to grow our organization, raise our media voice, elect pro-research candidates and recommit ourselves to making Nebraska a world class medical research center. Once again, the Nebraska Legislature will become the battleground. Although we have lost several of our most articulate voices we are enthused about the prospects of newly elected legislators dealing with these issues with a fresh and open mind. We have a strong core group who support our position and they are more committed than ever to stop bad legislation from becoming law.

You can help these efforts through your support of candidates who support medical research. Make no mistake about it our opponents are investing significant time and money to beat you. You can do no less.

## Contribute to Medical Research Today!

Select one or both options to continue your support for life-saving research.

### Nebraskans for Research Membership

Contributions to NFR are tax deductible.

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<input type="checkbox"/> Basic Membership	\$25
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# Nebraskans for Research Salute

## James Armitage, M.D. at Fifth Annual Tribute Luncheon



Nebraskans for Research will salute an internationally known cancer physician at its annual Tribute Luncheon on Monday, April 23, 2007. James O. Armitage, M.D., The Joe Shapiro Professor of Medicine in Oncology/Hematology and former Chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and Dean of the College of Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, is known throughout the world

for his expertise in the research and treatment of lymphoma and bone marrow transplantation.

The fifth annual Tribute Luncheon will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Happy Hollow Club, 1710 South 105th Street in Omaha.

A 1973 graduate of the UNMC College of Medicine, Dr. Armitage completed his internship and residency training at UNMC and an oncology/hematology fellowship at the University of Iowa. At the University of Iowa he developed the bone marrow transplant program and served as its director from 1980 to 1982. He joined UNMC in 1982. In addition to his teaching, research and clinical duties, Dr. Armitage held a series of leadership positions at UNMC, including chief of the section of oncology/hematology, vice chair of the Department of Internal Medicine, chair of the Department of Internal Medicine and Dean of the College of Medicine from 2000 to 2003.

Dr. Armitage's research has focused on the management and understanding of lymphomas and the use of bone marrow transplantation in the treatment of these disorders. He has been the

author of more than 500 scientific articles, book chapters, and monographs, and the editor of several textbooks in the field of internal medicine and oncology/hematology. He has developed an international reputation for both his clinical research and patient care.

Dr. Armitage's work has been recognized by numerous awards including election as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of the United Kingdom, the San Salvatore Foundation Research Award from Lugano, Switzerland, the Richard and Hilda Rosenthal Foundation Award from the American Association of Cancer Research, election as a Fellow of the American Associate for the Advancement of Science, the Sixth Claude-Jacquillat Award for Achievement in Clinical Oncology in Paris, the Avi Cinna Memorial Award in Cairo, Egypt, the Heath Memorial Award from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, and the Outstanding Research and Creativity Award from the University of Nebraska. He has been elected President of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and the American Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation, and was elected a member of the Association of American Physicians. He was appointed by President Bill Clinton to the National Cancer Advisory Board.

### Previous recipients of this honor include:

2006 Harold and Marian Andersen

2005 Rik and Dr. Shannon Bonness

2004 Dr. Michael F. Sorrell

2003 Charles Durham

## Where do Federal Candidates Stand on Medical, Health and Scientific Research?

Congressional candidates' responses to the 2006 Your Candidates – Your Health Voter Guide questionnaire are now available online at [www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org](http://www.yourcandidatesyourhealth.org).

Your Candidates-Your Health is the first national voter education initiative focused exclusively on Congressional candidates' positions on investment in medical, health and scientific research and other research related policy issues.

Use the easy search tools to see where Senate and House candidates stand on these issues. Please note that only two of the 6 individuals running for house seats answered the questionnaire: Maxine Moul in Congressional District 1 and Jim Esch in Congressional District 2. Neither candidate for Senate answered the questionnaire.

## New Stem Cell Research Funding Report

A recent Center for American Progress event addressed the state of stem cell research funding. Speakers included Iowa Senator Tom Harkin and Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle. Released at the event was the report *Too Much to Ask: The States Simply Cannot Make Up for Federal Inaction on Stem Cell Research*. It notes that states have promised more than \$3.65 Billion for stem cell research over an extended timeframe, but most of that will go toward the necessary infrastructure and training. While selected states are strongly supporting stem cell research, they cannot match funding power of the National Institutes of Health. The report warns that federal funding for embryonic stem cell research must be expanded for the U.S. to remain a leader in the field. To read the full report go to [www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org).

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## Nebraska Legislative Races

Listed below are candidates who have indicated support for medical research in Nebraska that are running for the Nebraska Legislature.

**Jerry Bond**, Legislative District 02  
DOES NOT SUPPORT stem cell research

**Dave Pankonin**, Legislative District 02  
Did not respond

**Pete Pirsch**, Legislative District 04  
Did not respond

**Tony Sorrentino**, Legislative District 04  
DOES NOT SUPPORT stem cell research

**John Nelson**, Legislative District 06  
Did not respond

**Lynne Anderson**, Legislative District 06  
SUPPORTS stem cell research

**Marc Kraft**, Legislative District 08  
SUPPORTS stem cell research

**Tom White**, Legislative District 08  
Did not respond

**Mike Friend**, incumbent,  
Legislative District 10  
Did not respond

**Robert Wimberly**, Legislative District 10  
SUPPORTS stem cell research

**Steve Lathrop**, Legislative District 12  
Did not respond

**Jean Stothert**, Legislative District 12  
SUPPORTS stem cell research

**Tim Gay**, Legislative District 14  
Did not respond

**Ian Hartfield**, Legislative District 14  
SUPPORTS stem cell research

**Jeff Bush**, Legislative District 16  
Did not respond

**Kent Rogert**, Legislative District 16  
Did not respond

**Mick Mines**, incumbent,  
Legislative District 18  
Did not respond

**Scott Yahnke**, Legislative District 18  
SUPPORTS stem cell research,  
with restrictions

**Carol Casey**, Legislative District 20  
DOES NOT SUPPORT stem cell research

**Brad Ashford**, Legislative District 20  
SUPPORTS stem cell research,  
with restrictions

**Arnie Stuthman**, incumbent, Legislative  
District 22  
Did not respond

**Curt Friesen**, Legislative District 24  
DOES NOT SUPPORT stem cell research

**Gregory Adams**, Legislative District 24  
SUPPORTS stem cell research,  
with restrictions

**Steve Guittar**, Legislative District 26  
Did not respond

**Amanda McGill**, Legislative District 26  
SUPPORTS stem cell research

**Bill Avery**, Legislative District 28  
SUPPORTS stem cell research

**Bob Swanson**, Legislative District 28  
DOES NOT SUPPORT stem cell research

**Tony Ojeda**, Legislative District 30  
Did not respond

**Norman Wallman**, Legislative District 30  
SUPPORTS stem cell research,  
with restrictions

**Russ Karpisek**, Legislative District 32  
Did not respond

**Ron Schwab**, Legislative District 32  
Did not respond

**Annette Dubas**, Legislative District 34  
Did not respond

**Greg Senkible**, Legislative District 34  
SUPPORTS stem cell research,  
with restrictions

**Dick Pierce**, Legislative District 36  
SUPPORTS limited stem cell research, with  
restrictions

**John Wightman**, Legislative District 36  
Did not respond

**Tom Carlson**, Legislative District 38  
DOES NOT SUPPORT stem cell research

**Wayne Garrison**, Legislative District 38  
Did not respond

**Cap Dierks**, Legislative District 40  
DOES NOT SUPPORT stem cell research

**Tom Noecker**, Legislative District 40  
Did not respond

**Thomas Hansen**, Legislative District 42  
Did not respond

**Marc Kaschke**, Legislative District 42  
Did not respond

**Mark Christensen**, Legislative District 44  
Did not respond

**Frank Shoemaker**, Legislative District 44  
Did not respond

**Carol Brown**, Legislative District 46  
Did not respond

**Danielle Nantkes**, Legislative District 46  
SUPPORTS stem cell research

**John Harms**, Legislative District 48  
Did not respond

**George Schlothauer**,  
Legislative District 48  
DOES NOT SUPPORT stem cell research



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