



Nebraska Coalition
for Lifesaving Cures

The Newsletter of the Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures
September, 2012

Genetics Policy Institute Honors Nebraska Coalition with "Stem Cell Action Award"

On September 18, the Genetics Policy Institute (GPI) announced the 2012 Stem Cell Action Award Honorees. Since 2005, GPI has honored the stem cell community's top innovators, leaders, and champions at the Stem Cell Action Awards Dinner at the annual World Stem Cell Summit.

The 2012 Stem Cell Action Award honorees are Susan Solomon, CEO of the New York Stem Cell Foundation (NYSCF); "60 Minutes;" Alliance for Regenerative Medicine (ARM); Nebraska Coalition for Lifesaving Cures; and Sabrina Cohen, founder of the Sabrina Cohen Foundation.

[Full Story from Genetics Policy Institute \(09-18-2012\)](#)

Harold Maurer: Making it rain for UNMC

Chancellor Harold Maurer has transformed the University of Nebraska Medical Center into a modern teaching, research and clinical complex, its vibrant campus alive with gleaming new buildings and enhanced academic prowess.

And another transformation is rapidly approaching just over the horizon. Maurer will leave his post as chancellor June 30 after almost 15 years at the helm to join the University of Nebraska Foundation and spearhead fundraising for a \$370 million cancer research and treatment center that will lift UNMC into new territory.

[Full Story in Lincoln Journal-Star \(09-16-2012\)](#)

"Meanwhile, a change in the composition of the Board of Regents after November's election raises the possibility that the university might once again have to fight a battle over whether to curtail or end its embryonic stem cell research.

We do most of our research with adult stem cells, but if we shut down embryonic research, no stem cell scientist will come to UNMC and any we already have here will leave. We would also lose graduate students. It would be damaging to the reputation of the Med Center nationally and internationally."

-Harold Maurer



UNMC's loss is our gain

Dr. David Crouse was unanimously elected to take the position of President of the Board of Directors of the Nebraska Coalition for Live Saving Cures when former president Sanford Goodman resigned after a decade of service to the organization.

[Full Story from *UNMC News* \(08-28-2012\)](#)

Stem cells partially repair spinal cord injuries in rats

Today, there's a new paper published by a CIRM grantee at the University of California San Diego that describes a big advance. Mark Tuszynski, co-author of the study and director of the UC San Diego Center for Neural Repair, was able to coerce neural stem cells implanted into the damaged region of the spine to grow past the injury, reconnecting the brain with the parts of the spinal cord below the injury.

The work was in rats, so all the usual caveats apply. Rats have been cured of many things in the lab that did not end up working in people. But still, those rats regained some movement.

[Full Story from the *California Institute for Regenerative Medicine* \(09-14-2012\)](#)

Paralyzed patients regain some sensory function after neural stem cell treatment

For most people who are paralyzed, there is no treatment available to help them regain full function of their limbs. But, promising new research from a phase 1 study conducted at the University of Zurich sponsored by StemCells, Inc. shows that six months after the implantation of neural stem cells, two out of three complete injury patients - meaning they had no neurological function below the point of injury - were able to gain some sensory function.

[Full Story from *CBS News* \(09-03-2012\)](#)

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