

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SEN. SPANO, AMDeC ANNOUNCE \$10 MILLION IN STATE FUNDING FOR NATION'S FIRST SHARED-USE MOUSE FACILITY

*New York's genetic research community is running out of space to house
experimental mice;*

*New shared-use "Mouse House" will end shortage, reduce research costs and
attract scientific talent and federal research funds to New York*

YONKERS, NY—Wednesday—September 13, 2006—At a news conference at 10 AM today at Aureon Laboratories, 28 Wells Avenue in Yonkers, New York, State Senator Nick Spano (R-Westchester) and Dr. Maria Mitchell, President of AMDeC (Academic Medicine Development Company), a consortium of 35 medical schools, academic health centers and medical research organizations in New York State, announced that \$10 million in State funding has been secured for construction of a Shared-Use Mouse Facility in Yonkers to breed and house mice for medical research in the New York region.

Mice are a critical component of medical research. Scientists have determined that 99% of mouse genes have direct counterparts in humans, making mice ideal subjects of genetic and biological experiments.

The primary function of AMDeC's Mouse Facility will be to breed mice in a disease-free environment that will not require the mice to be quarantined before being brought to laboratories for research. New York faces a shortage of mouse facility space at the same time that genetic research has shown that laboratory mice hold the key to understanding human genetics and biology. Adequate space to breed and maintain laboratory mice is essential in recruiting top-flight scientists and bringing major grant funding to New York State.

The Yonkers facility will be the first multi-institutional "mouse house" in the United States. By creating a facility that can be shared by many medical researchers, participating institutions will be able to reduce costs, attract and retain high-level scientists and gain federal research dollars to strengthen New York's competitive position in basic science and medical research. Seven AMDeC-affiliated research institutions are committed to the development of the Mouse Facility: Columbia University; Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of Cornell University; Rockefeller University; Mount Sinai School of Medicine; New York University School of Medicine; Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center; and North Shore—Long Island Jewish Health System.

Commercial mouse facilities—an alternative when space at individual research institutions runs out—can be expensive, up to five times the cost of institutions' in-house per diem costs. However, by serving the needs of many research institutions at one site, AMDeC will be able to achieve economies of scale that will make the space more affordable for all participating institutions. Also, creating a shared facility overcomes traditional barriers to multi-institutional cooperation by enabling institutions to share costs at a remote location without ceding control of their more technical, specialized research functions.

“I am gratified that I was able to secure a total of \$10 million in State Capital funds over the next two years to launch this important medical facilities project,” said Senator Nick Spano (Westchester). “The shared use mouse facility project will not only provide a much needed service to our region’s medical researchers, but also economic development and jobs for the City of Yonkers.”

Dr. Maria Mitchell, president of AMDeC, said, “Creating this vitally needed facility will ensure that research institutions across New York State are equipped with the necessary tools and resources to help them remain on the cutting edge of medical research for years to come and accelerate the search for treatment and cures for many diseases. I want to thank Senator Spano for allocating the State funds to get this important project off the ground.”

The Mouse Facility will be located at i.park Hudson, the former Otis Elevator factory in Yonkers that is being developed by National RE/sources LLC. National RE/sources is a Greenwich, Connecticut, developer known for transforming industrial buildings into high-tech space.

The facility will be 45,000 square feet and have an initial capacity of approximately 40,000 mouse cages. AMDeC will have the flexibility to double the facility’s space within five years to expand to 80,000 cages.

A recent AMDeC study found that a local Mouse Facility could provide a significant boost to medical research in the New York metropolitan area, given the unparalleled concentration of nationally known medical research institutions located here. The study also showed that New York’s genetic research community is quickly running out of space to house experimental mice.

Housing mice for medical research is a complex operation. The facility must be capable of maintaining sanitary precautions similar to those of an operating room. It must also be able to protect fragile, genetically designed mice from any contact with disease. And the receiving scientific research institutions must be assured that mice from the facility are delivered completely disease-free. The new Shared-Use Mouse Facility in Yonkers will meet all of these vital criteria.