

AMDeC Member Institutions

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
American Museum of Natural History
Beth Israel Medical Center
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Columbia-Presbyterian Campus of New York
Presbyterian Hospital
Columbia University College of Physicians
and Surgeons
Greater New York Hospital Association
Hospital for Special Surgery
Joan & Sanford I. Weill Medical College of
Cornell University
Lenox Hill Hospital
Maimonides Medical Center
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
Montefiore Medical Center
Mount Sinai-NYU Medical Center and Health
System
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Nassau County Medical Center
New York Blood Center
New York-Cornell Campus of New York
Presbyterian Hospital
New York Eye and Ear Infirmary
New York Hospital Medical Center of
Queens
New York Medical College
New York University School of Medicine
North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health
System
Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center
Rockefeller University
Saint Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center
Sisters of Charity Health Care System
St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center
State University of New York
SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn
SUNY at Buffalo, School of Medicine &
Biomedical Sciences
SUNY at Stony Brook, University Hospital
and Medical Center
SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse
Strang Cancer Prevention Center
University of Rochester School of Medicine

Editor's note: For our non-scientist readers, "BIO SNPs" is a play on the acronym SNPs (pronounced 'snips'), single nucleotide polymorphisms, which are DNA sequence variations that occur when one of the structural components of DNA in the genome sequence is altered.

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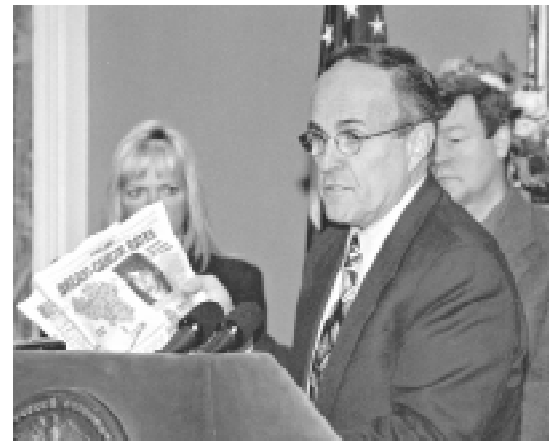
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AMDeC BIO SNPs

Maurice R. Greenberg, Chairman
Maria K. Mitchell, Ph.D., President

MAYOR GIULIANI ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL \$2 MILLION FOR SUPPORT OF NEW YORK CANCER PROJECT TO DEVELOP TARGETED RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN

On April 12, 2000, Mayor Giuliani announced an **additional \$2 million for the New York Cancer Project** for more intensive outreach, education, and screening, targeted at those areas of the City that appear to have higher rates of breast cancer, based on a report released by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). The NYSDOH report documented breast cancer clusters in parts of New York State with higher prevalence of the disease, including the Upper East Side of Manhattan, the southern end of Brooklyn, a mid-section of Staten Island, and the Rockaway peninsula in Queens.



Mayor Giuliani discusses New York City breast cancer rates at an April press conference. Accompanying the Mayor were AMDeC President, Dr. Maria Mitchell and Division Chief of Biology and Human Genetics at North Shore University Hospital, Dr. Peter Gregersen.

As of now, the underlying causes related to the breast cancer clusters reported in the study are not well understood. The New York Cancer Project should eventually shed light on questions about why cancer is concentrated in certain areas and potential correlations to the environment, genetics, and demographic factors. Additional funding for the New York Cancer Project: Targeted Initiative will greatly enhance recruitment efforts and increase the number of study participants in the high incidence areas. Goals for the New York Cancer Project: Targeted Initiative include analyzing the success of various recruitment methods to ensure that the target group is being captured in the study and to promote breast cancer screening through an information and referral campaign. At the project's completion, areas of high incidence can expect an increase in early breast cancer detection and residents who are better informed about their screening, detection, and treatment options.

AMDeC REPORT: WHY NEW YORK MUST INVEST IN ITS BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

A recently released report by AMDeC describes New York's increasingly precarious ability to be a major player in biomedical research generally, and the genomics research arena specifically, in large part because other states are significantly outpacing New York in their investment in genomics and biomedical

research. The report, entitled *New York's Choice: Leader or Laggard in Biomedical Research and Biotechnology*, traces the State's steady path of decline in biomedical research as measured by such key indicators as funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to New York institutions.

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AMDeC TO DEVELOP A STATEWIDE INVENTORY OF CORE RESEARCH FACILITIES

To assist AMDeC member institutions in optimizing the efficient use of expensive research technologies, AMDeC is developing an inventory of core research facilities and biological material databases/repositories housed in member institutions. Core facilities—also known as shared research facilities—refer to centralized facilities providing high technology research equipment, instrumentation, and/or services on a shared use basis to scientists in one or more research institutions. Examples of common core facilities include electron microscopy, DNA synthesis and sequencing, confocal microscopy, flow cytometry, and mass spectrometry. In addition, several AMDeC member institutions have assembled biological material databases and repositories consisting of blood and/or tissue samples for research purposes. In some instances, these databases could be made available to scientists in other AMDeC institutions to facilitate their research.

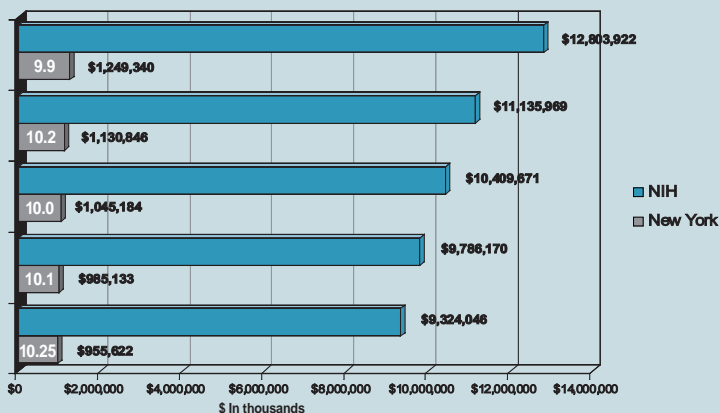
Once established, this inventory will offer many opportunities for AMDeC members to make better use of existing core facilities and databases by improving utilization and making excess capacity available to other AMDeC members, research organizations, and possibly commercial enterprises. Completion of the inventory is expected within the next few months. Please contact Dr. Barbara Green at (212) 218-5640 for additional information regarding the inventory.

NEW AMDeC REPORT *Continued from page 1*

In 1999, for the first time ever, New York received less than 10% of total NIH grants to institutions. As alarming, the State ranked in the bottom quartile of states (43rd out of 52) in the percentage increase in NIH funding between 1995 and 1999. By

Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Ohio, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Washington offer comprehensive public policy and economic development strategies for the biotechnology sector. These states encourage industry growth through tax credits

NIH Support to New York Institutions Relative to Total NIH Grants to Institutions, Fiscal Years 1995-1999



contrast, other states and regions have been quick to recognize biomedical research and biotechnology as a major economic development opportunity and have been investing vast sums to build infrastructure and create environments that are friendly to this sector. For example, an analysis of states' proposed use of tobacco settlement funds alone reveals that at least 18 states will allot more than \$2.5 billion to biomedical research-related activities in the coming years. Additionally, states including California, Connecticut,

and exemptions for R&D, net operating loss credit, investment pools, enterprise zones, employment training, technology transfers, and infrastructure assistance that, in many instances, surpass New York's biotech incentive package. In the recently concluded negotiations for New York's 2000-2001 budget, State leaders allocated \$17.5 million for biomedical research, a fraction of what most experts believe is needed to enable New York to establish a firm foothold in one of the hottest growing sectors of the economy. If interested in receiving a copy of AMDeC's report, *New York's Choice: Leader or Laggard in Biomedical Research and Biotechnology*, please contact the AMDeC offices at (212) 218-5640.

SAVE THE DATE: VENTURE CAPITAL TRAINING SEMINAR

AMDeC will cosponsor a two-part venture capital training seminar with the *New York Biotechnology Association* to be held during the *Association's 10th Anniversary Annual Meeting, October 11-12, 2000*, at the **Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City**. This program will become part of a broader effort to develop opportunities for AMDeC member institutions' scientists to work with New York's venture capitalists in creating new business ventures resulting from scientific discoveries. Additional information on the program will be sent out this summer.

AMDeC BEGINS TALKS WITH CELERA FOR GROUP PURCHASING

In its continued effort to secure favorable purchasing for expensive biomedical research technologies, AMDeC has begun discussions with Celera Genomics to obtain a discount for use of Celera's database with AMDeC member institutions. To inform the negotiations, AMDeC will conduct a needs assessment of its member institutions to determine the potential demand for these data and the actual number of institutions interested in participating in a potential arrangement. Member institutions can expect to receive the needs assessment survey in mid-June.

RECORD-BREAKING TURN OUT FOR REVLON RUN/WALK RAISES FUNDS FOR WOMEN'S CANCERS

Nearly 40,000 participants crowded the streets of Times Square for the 3rd Annual *Revlon Run/Walk for Women's Cancers* on May 6, 2000, organized by **Lily Tartikoff, Ronald O. Perelman**, and the **Entertainment Industry Foundation**. Making this New York's largest ever Run/Walk to date, teams and individuals, who came out in support of women's cancers, made their way through the race path to Central Park where the Run/Walk culminated in a health fair showcasing exhibits from its beneficiary programs and corporate sponsors. Many runners and walkers pinned hand written signs to their backs in memory of loved ones who passed away from cancer or in support of those who are still living with some form of cancer.



Photo by Revlon Run/Walk participant and Young Investigator Fund recipient Dr. Carlos L. Simmerling, SUNY at Stony Brook

AMDeC will receive 40% of the money raised from the *Revlon Run/Walk for Women* in order to fund important research for women's cancers through AMDeC's **Fund for Young Investigators**. The remainder of the funds will be used to provide diagnostic and treatment services for medically underserved women and deliver psychosocial services for women with

cancer and for their families. **The Entertainment Industry Foundation** expects to surpass previous years' fundraising and continues to collect donations toward the New York Run/Walk through the end of June 2000. If interested in donating to the Revlon Run/Walk, log on to

www.revlonrunwalk.com and enter into the New York fundraising section to send in a pledge. Any amount goes a long way towards making a true difference in the lives of women battling cancer throughout New York.

COLLABORATION AND POPULATION DIVERSITY: CORNERSTONES OF AMDeC'S INITIATIVES

Charting a course that has potentially profound implications for the future of biomedical research in New York and perhaps elsewhere, AMDeC's emerging portfolio of initiatives typically share two common threads: first, they are broad-based, multi-institutional/multi-disciplinary collaborations and, second, they emphasize the inclusion of a wide array of ethnic populations. Such emphases reflect the growing priorities of AMDeC's Board members, their institutional scientists, NIH, public policymakers, and others.

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NEW YORK CANCER PROJECT KICKS OFF RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN: YOU ARE THE CURE

On Saturday, May 6th, in conjunction with *Revlon's Run/Walk for Women's Cancers*, the New York Cancer Project unveiled its recruitment campaign at its exhibit booth at the Run/Walk Health Fair in Central Park. Postcards and brochures featuring a compelling campaign developed *pro bono* by **Young & Rubicam**, one of the nation's top advertising agencies, were distributed to tens of thousands of participants. The campaign theme encourages participation in one of the country's largest epidemiological studies by suggesting that "a drop of blood and a little time" can leave future generations a world where cancer is manageable and treatable.



Photo by Jack Reznicki



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COLLABORATION AND POPULATION DIVERSITY: CORNERSTONES OF AMDeC'S INITIATIVES

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For example:

- **The New York Cancer Project** is a long-term epidemiological study focusing on the interplay between genetics, the environment, lifestyle factors and the development of cancer. Ultimately, the goal is to recruit 300,000 individuals who live or work in New York to participate in this study. A pilot study is now underway, which is designed to test recruitment strategies at nearly 20 institutional sites. These include *Beth Israel Medical Center, Mt. Sinai Medical Center, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York Hospital Medical Center of Queens, Maimonides Medical Center, Sisters of Charity Health Care System*, and various community-based health centers within these institutions' catchment areas. The study will involve a wide range of ethnic groups, including Caucasians, Latinos, Chinese, Russians, and others.
- **AMDeC's Human Genetics and Genomics Initiative** calls for establishing "core" research facilities in strategic locations around the State that will offer key technologies (DNA sequencing, microarray, proteomics, and bioinformatics) on a shared-use basis to scientists who are engaged in genomics research throughout AMDeC member institutions. Implementation of this initiative will give scientists all across New York State access to expensive technologies.
- **The New York Early Lung Cancer Action Project** will recruit 10,000 participants in an effort to determine whether low-dose chest computed tomography (CT) screening conducted on individuals with a high risk for lung cancer increases the detection of small, early-stage lung cancer. The study, to be launched shortly, will involve 8-12 AMDeC member institutions statewide. Moreover, the study requires that at least 20% of the participants enrolled at each institution represent minority populations.
- In response to a Request-for-Applications issued recently by AMDeC for research projects focusing on **obesity and type 2 diabetes in children and adolescents**, AMDeC received five proposals involving an average of three institutions per proposal, and a total of nearly 60 investigators. AMDeC is currently working with the principal investigators from each proposal to develop an integrated, collaborative approach to this project.

DR. DAVID HAMBURG TO CHAIR NEWLY CREATED BIOETHICS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dr. David A. Hamburg, President Emeritus at *Carnegie Corporation of New York*, has agreed to chair an interdisciplinary and multi-institutional bioethics advisory committee, formed by AMDeC, to address emerging policy and ethical issues related to human genetics research. Dr. Hamburg's distinguished career and active leadership roles on many policy advisory boards and foundations has made him a nationally recognized leader and a highly sought after expert in the health sciences, technology development, and international security. Dr. Hamburg's unique roles as chief executive, scholar, policy expert, and humanitarian will bring tremendous leadership and insight to this committee at such a crucial time of scientific and medical discovery.

AMDeC's Bioethics Advisory Committee will explore social, legal, and ethical issues related to biomedical research and examine the public's perceptions related to participating in genetic research and its implications for advancing medical science. AMDeC has already begun a dialogue on these issues with various communities in the New York region through the **New York Cancer Project** and will continue to work with community leaders under the auspices of its *Community Advisory Board*. Together with *AMDeC's Bioethics Advisory Committee*, the goal is to create a more informed public on the issues surrounding human genetics research.