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STATEMENT TO THE MEDIA – FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

The following statement may be attributed to Amy Comstock Rick, president, Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research:

“We applaud the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for moving thoughtfully and expeditiously to approve thirteen embryonic stem cell lines for federally funded research. It is incredibly rewarding for patients, advocates, and the scientific community to see embryonic stem cell research finally allowed to move forward, without arbitrary limitations, in our hopes of better treatments and cures for so many devastating diseases.

“We look forward to additional lines being approved, and anxiously await the new breakthroughs to come.

“For those of us in Washington who have been working on this issue for nearly eleven years, we are thrilled to see that, given a level playing field, the process works, and that the new NIH guidelines are ethically appropriate and supportive of the research.

“Three-quarters of Americans support embryonic stem cell research, and it’s about time federal policy and oversight reflect the will of the people. Thanks to President Obama’s leadership and early action on this issue, we’re that much closer to realizing the hope this research provides.”

The Coalition for the Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR) is the nation's leading bipartisan pro-cures coalition. CAMR is comprised of 100 nationally recognized patient organizations, universities, scientific societies, and foundations advocating for the advancement of breakthrough research and technologies in the field of medical and health research. CAMR's advocacy and education outreach focuses on stem cell research and related research fields in which the mission is to develop treatments and cures for individuals with life-threatening illnesses and disorders.

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