

# The University of Texas Medical Branch

Texas Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Interim Charge #11: Human Stem Cell Research

**1. What kind of human stem cell research is being conducted at your institution?**

Scientists at The University of Texas Medical Branch study the molecular mechanisms of self-renewal originating from stem cells. These studies could have outcomes relating to the development of stem cell-related therapy to treat diseases like ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), traumatic brain and spinal cord injury.

**2. How many research projects involving human stem cells are currently being conducted?**

In FY 2009, two funded projects. Other projects not funded by grants may exist.

**3. What is the total amount spent on these human stem cell research projects?**

These projects are funded by the federal government (NIH) or private foundations. The total amount is not known.

**4. How much General Revenue do you spend on all research each fiscal year?**

In FY 2009, UTMB spent \$1,459,733 from General Revenues in support of research. This represents less than 1% of our total expenditures of \$153,713,920.

**5. How much General Revenue do you spend on human stem cell research each fiscal year?**

There is no current direct state funding of these projects. There is departmental support of faculty professional activities for these investigators, a part of which could be accounted to these projects. It is not known whether the sources of such departmental funding derives from General Revenue or other resources available to them (endowments, etc.).

**6. What factors would need to be considered to determine how much of the total cost of these human stem cell efforts is spent on actual human stem cell research, and how much of the spending comes from state funds?**

Research projects funded by distinct grant accounts would be reported. Other costs, "indirect costs" would need to be allocated to these expenses. Expenditures on endowments or general discretionary funds that support multiple projects would need to be estimated. The reporting would be at best a reasonable estimate of the costs without a major investment in information and staffing resources.

- 7. If the state is attempting to collect data on what human stem cell research is being funded by the state, do you have recommendations on how to achieve this?**

This reporting is ad hoc. Regular reporting would require a modification to the financial reporting system and generally be expensive and staff intensive.