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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statewide Poll Shows Significant Majority of Georgians Support Embryonic Stem Cell Research and Therapeutic Cloning

(ATLANTA, September 20, 2006) – A statewide poll conducted on behalf of the Georgia Biomedical Partnership demonstrates that a significant majority of Georgia registered voters supports embryonic stem cell research and therapeutic cloning. The poll also shows Georgians overwhelmingly oppose reproductive cloning.

The poll was conducted by Republican pollster and public affairs researcher Dr. Whit Ayres of Ayres McHenry & Associates, Inc., based in Washington, DC. Dr. Ayres has worked as a pollster for Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist and Senators Lamar Alexander, Lindsey Graham, and the late Paul Coverdell.

The results show that Georgia voters by a more than two-to-one margin (67% to 31%) support embryonic stem cell research and by a double digit margin (55% to 42%) support therapeutic cloning. Voters overwhelmingly oppose reproductive cloning by a 79% to 16% margin.

In addition, two-thirds of Georgia voters believe that any medical research allowed by federal law should be allowed in Georgia; and three-fourths believe that new treatments derived from embryonic stem cell research done outside the state should be allowed in Georgia.

“These findings clearly demonstrate the vast majority of Georgians embrace the potential of medical research, including embryonic stem cell research, to improve their quality of life,” said Georgia Biomedical Partnership President Charles Craig. “The results show that Georgia voters support the state's robust biosciences industry as a major driver of improved health and economic growth. The poll also strongly suggests Georgia voters would oppose attempts to ban or criminalize stem cell research.”

The Georgia Biomedical Partnership is a private, non-profit association representing 280 pharmaceutical, biotechnology, and medical device companies, universities, research institutes, government groups and other bioscience-related businesses and organizations.

Note to Editors: A press conference is scheduled Thursday, September 21, at 10 am, at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel, Savannah, Ga. After the press conference, the poll and summary findings will be available on the Georgia Biomedical Partnership Web site: www.gabio.org

For more information contact Charles Craig, President, Georgia Biomedical Partnership, **404-245-0591** or charles.craig@gabio.org; or Dr. Whit Ayres, Ayres McHenry & Associates, **703-836-7666**.

AYRES & MCHENRY ASSOCIATES, INC.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS SURVEY OF GEORGIA REGISTERED VOTERS REGARDING STEM CELL RESEARCH SEPTEMBER 5-7 & 9-10, 2006

This survey of 600 Georgia registered voters indicates remarkably well-developed views on the complex issue of stem cell research. Whether the indicator is the very low percentage of undecided opinions on various questions, the stability of the results throughout the course of the survey, or the internal consistency of the findings, this survey suggests that Georgia voters have thought about and discussed this issue.

Moreover, voters make sharp distinctions about the kinds of research they do and do not support. An overwhelming proportion of Georgians support adult stem cell research on cells taken from places like bone marrow. By a two-to-one margin, they also support research on embryos donated by fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded. Therapeutic cloning is a closer call, but a majority of Georgians still support it, even after hearing strong arguments both for and against the research. On the other hand, an overwhelming proportion of Georgians oppose reproductive cloning to create a genetically identical human being.

Stem cell research offers enormous medical promise, and creates enormous ethical challenges. This survey indicates that Georgians have been wrestling with those trade-offs, and have made initial judgments in favor of at least some kinds of stem cell research. Highlights of the survey include:

- 1. Nearly nine in ten Georgia voters have seen or heard something about stem cell research.** Georgians are remarkably aware of the stem cell issue, with 86 percent having heard something about it – 40 percent have heard a lot, while 46 percent have heard just a little. Only 14 percent of voters have not seen or heard something about the issue.
- 2. Two-thirds of voters believe that “any medical research that is allowed by federal law should be allowed in Georgia.”** Voters agree with this statement by a 67 to 30 percent margin. Forty percent of voters strongly agree, while 19 percent strongly disagree.
- 3. By a margin of two-to-one, Georgians support embryonic stem cell research on donated embryos.** Voters support “research on stem cells taken from donated embryos from fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded” by a 63 to 33 percent margin, with only 5 percent undecided. Intensity is on the side of the supporters, with 40 percent strongly supporting and 24 percent strongly opposing research on donated embryos.

4. After hearing strong arguments both for and against research on donated embryos, opinions remain virtually unchanged.

Which of these statements about research on donated embryos comes closer to your view?

- a. *Supporters say Georgia should allow research on stem cells taken from donated embryos from fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded. That research has the potential to find cures to save your life and the lives of your loved ones. It makes no sense to throw away embryos that could do so much good for so many people.*
- b. *Opponents say Georgia should prohibit research on stem cells taken from donated embryos from fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded. Experimenting on viable human embryos for any purpose is a line that should not be crossed. That research is unethical and immoral.*

Georgia voters side with supporters of research on donated embryos by 63 to 34 percent, almost identical to the initial 63 to 33 percent margin derived before the arguments were presented. That stability suggests that Georgians have thought about and discussed this research before the survey was conducted. Otherwise strong arguments both for and against the research would have had a greater effect on the numbers.

When the survey posed the initial question again toward the end of the survey, support rose to 67 to 31 percent, with 42 percent strongly supporting and 24 percent strongly opposing research on donated embryos.

5. A majority of Georgians supports therapeutic cloning research. Voters support “*therapeutic cloning research, or creating an embryo in a laboratory that would not be placed in a woman’s body, but that would produce cells that could lead to new treatments for diseases*” by a 53 to 41 percent margin. Intensity is evenly matched – 29 percent of voters both strongly support and strongly oppose this type of research.

6. As with stem cell research from donated embryos, arguments for and against therapeutic cloning do little to change voters’ view on the issue.

Which of these statements about therapeutic cloning research comes closer to your view?

- a. *Supporters say Georgia should allow therapeutic cloning research. Therapeutic cloning creates stem cells that could save your life or the lives of your loved ones. It does not create cloned babies. It uses a patient’s own cell and an unfertilized egg to create stem cells in a laboratory that match the patient’s genetic makeup. Those stem cells could then be used to develop new drugs and grow new cells to repair damaged organs that would be much less likely to be rejected because they would be genetically identical to the patient.*
- b. *Opponents say Georgia should prohibit therapeutic cloning research. Therapeutic cloning creates a cloned human embryo which is then destroyed to obtain the stem cells. Experimenting on viable human embryos for any purpose is a line that should not be crossed. That research is unethical and immoral.*

After hearing this information, voters say that Georgia should allow this research by a 55 to 42 percent margin, almost identical to the 53 to 41 percent margin before hearing the arguments.

When the question was asked again toward the end of the survey in its original form support increased modestly, to 56 to 41 percent. Intensity increases on both sides, but remains relatively even, with 32 percent of voters strongly supporting, and 30 percent strongly opposing therapeutic cloning research.

7. One question shows significant change in opinions over the course of the survey: creating embryos in a laboratory for the purpose of research. When asked initially, voters are evenly divided on whether they support or oppose “*research on stem cells taken from embryos that have been created in a laboratory for the purpose of research*” 49 percent support and 44 percent oppose that research. Intensity in this case is on the side of the opponents – 32 percent strongly oppose it, compared to 28 percent who strongly support it.

After hearing the above arguments both for and against research on donated embryos and therapeutic cloning, the margin of support for “*Research on stem cells taken from embryos that have been created in a laboratory for the purpose of research*” jumps to 57 to 40 percent, with a change in the balance of intensity – 31 percent of voters strongly support the research, while 28 percent strongly oppose it.

The change appears to be caused by voters equating this type of research with therapeutic cloning. Indeed, the 57 to 40 percent margin in favor of this research is strikingly close to the final 56 to 41 percent margin in favor of therapeutic cloning. Apparently voters ultimately see these two statements as very similar.

8. Georgians overwhelmingly oppose reproductive cloning. By a 79 to 16 percent margin, Georgians oppose “*reproductive cloning, or creating an embryo to be placed in a woman’s body that is an exact genetic duplicate of an existing human being*” 67 percent strongly oppose reproductive cloning, and only 6 percent strongly support it.

9. By a margin of almost eight-to-one, Georgians support adult stem cell research. Voters support “*research on stem cells taken from adults that are found in places like bone marrow*” by an overwhelming 85 to 11 percent margin, with 56 percent saying they “strongly support” it. Support for this research is remarkably consistent across all subgroups in the sample.

10. Voters are torn on limiting stem cell research only to adult stem cells, especially if they think we can get the same benefits from adult stem cells compared to embryonic stem cells. Voters were presented with a choice between allowing research on embryonic stem cells, or only adult stem cells:

Which of these statements about embryonic stem cell research comes closer to your view?

- a. *Supporters of embryonic stem cell research say Georgia should allow stem cell research on cells taken from embryos. Embryos used in this research are created in a laboratory dish, and are no more than 200 cells and no more than two weeks old. The overwhelming majority of medical experts believe that research on these embryonic stem cells could provide cures for many diseases and injuries that cannot be provided by adult stem cells. Embryonic stem cell research is a major new medical breakthrough, and medical researchers should be allowed to pursue research that could save your life or the lives of your loved ones.*

- b. *Opponents of embryonic stem cell research say Georgia should limit stem cell research to cells taken from adults. Research on stem cells taken from embryos has not yet provided and may never provide cures. Research on stem cells taken from adults has already provided successful treatments for a number of diseases without the ethical and moral dilemmas of taking stem cells from embryos. We should concentrate research on adult stem cells, and prohibit unethical and immoral experimentation on embryos.*

When presented in this way, 48 percent of voters say that Georgia should allow embryonic stem cell research, while 45 percent say that Georgia should limit research to adult stem cells. Based on the results to other questions, the crucial sentence in this exchange appears to be the opponents' statement that "*research on stem cells taken from adults has already provided successful treatments for a number of diseases without the ethical and moral dilemmas of taking stem cells from embryos.*" Whether adult stem cell research can offer the same promise as embryonic stem cell research is ultimately a question to be resolved by the biological sciences, not by public opinion research.

11. Three-fourths of voters believe that new treatments for diseases that result from embryonic stem cell research done outside the state should be allowed in Georgia. "*If embryonic stem cell research done outside of Georgia creates new medicines and treatments for diseases*" 75 percent of voters believe that the medicines and treatments should be allowed in Georgia, while only 19 percent believe they should be prohibited. Interestingly, even voters who believe that Georgia should limit research to adult stem cells believe that these treatments should be allowed by a 55 to 34 percent margin.

12. Support from medical organizations increases voter support for therapeutic cloning, while opposition from conservative religious groups has less impact. The statement, "*Therapeutic cloning research is strongly supported by many medical organizations and patient groups including the American Medical Association, the American Diabetes Association, the Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Parkinson's Action Network*" makes 48 percent of voters more likely to support therapeutic cloning research, and 12 percent less likely to support it, with 39 percent saying it has no effect on their support.

On the other hand, the statement "*Therapeutic cloning research is strongly opposed by many conservative religious groups including the National Catholic Conference, the National Right-to-Life Association, Focus on the Family, and the Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics*" makes 19 percent of voters more likely to support therapeutic cloning research, 23 percent less likely to support it, and 56 percent saying it has no effect on their support.

Methodology

The sample for the Survey of Georgia Registered Voters Regarding Stem Cell Research consists of 600 respondents drawn randomly from throughout Georgia. Calls were conducted September 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10, 2006. Respondents were selected through random-digit dialing to insure that households with both listed and unlisted telephone numbers are included. Thirty-four percent of the respondents are Republicans, 33 percent are Democrats, and the remainder are Independents or others. Consistent with voter registration statistics, 67 percent of the sample is white, 28 percent is black, and 5 percent is "other/refused." By gender, the sample is 45 percent male and 55 percent female. The sample was also stratified by county according to current registration. The margin of error for the entire sample is plus or minus 4.00 percentage points.

**SURVEY OF GEORGIA REGISTERED VOTERS
REGARDING STEM CELL RESEARCH**

SEPTEMBER 5-7 & 9-10, 2006

Hello, this is _____ with Ayres, McHenry & Associates, a public opinion research company. We're talking with people in Georgia today for just a few minutes about stem cell research in Georgia. We are not trying to sell anything, your answers are completely confidential, and we would really appreciate your cooperation. The survey will take about fifteen minutes (DO NOT PAUSE).

A. Are you registered to vote in the county in which you live?

YES GO TO QUESTION C
NO GO TO QUESTION B

B. Is there anyone else in your household who is registered to vote in your county?

YES May I speak with that person please? GO TO INTRO
NO THANK AND CLOSE

C. Are you, or is any member of your family, employed by a media organization?

YES THANK AND CLOSE
NO GO TO QUESTION 1
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED THANK AND CLOSE

1. Have you seen or heard anything about a type of medical research called stem cell research?

IF YES, ASK: Have you seen or heard a lot about it, or just a little?

YES/A LOT 40%
YES/A LITTLE 46%
NO, NOT SEEN OR HEARD 14%

Results are based on 600 respondents, with a margin of error of ± 4.00 percent.
Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Now I am going to ask you if you support or oppose conducting particular types of medical research in Georgia. (RANDOMIZE)

IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK: Would that be strongly (support/oppose), or just somewhat (support/oppose)?

	<i>STRNG SUPP</i>	<i>SMWHT SUPP</i>	<i>SMWHT OPPS</i>	<i>STRNG OPPS</i>	<i>DON'T KNOW</i>
2. Research on stem cells taken from adults that are found in places like bone marrow.	56%	29%	5%	6%	4%
	85%			11%	
3. Research on stem cells taken from embryos that have been created in a laboratory for the purpose of research.	28%	21%	12%	32%	7%
	49%			44%	
4. Research on stem cells taken from donated embryos from fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded.	40%	23%	9%	24%	5%
	63%			33%	
5. Reproductive cloning, or creating an embryo to be placed in a woman's body that is an exact genetic duplicate of an existing human being.	6%	10%	12%	67%	5%
	16%			79%	
6. Therapeutic cloning research, or creating an embryo in a laboratory that would not be placed in a woman's body, but that would produce cells that could lead to new treatments for diseases.	29%	24%	12%	29%	6%
	53%			41%	

Embryonic versus Adult Stem Cell Research

7. Which of these statements about embryonic stem cell research comes closer to your view? (ROTATE)
- Supporters of embryonic stem cell research say Georgia should allow stem cell research on cells taken from embryos. Embryos used in this research are created in a laboratory dish, and are no more than 200 cells and no more than two weeks old. The overwhelming majority of medical experts believe that research on these embryonic stem cells could provide cures for many diseases and injuries that cannot be provided by adult stems cells. Embryonic stem cell research is a major new medical breakthrough, and medical researchers should be allowed to pursue research that could save your life or the lives of your loved ones.
 - Opponents of embryonic stem cell research say Georgia should limit stem cell research to cells taken from adults. Research on stem cells taken from embryos has not yet provided and may never provide cures. Research on stem cells taken from adults has already provided successful treatments for a number of diseases without the ethical and moral dilemmas of taking stem cells from embryos. We should concentrate research on adult stem cells, and prohibit unethical and immoral experimentation on embryos.

ALLOW EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH 48%
LIMIT TO ADULT STEM CELL RESEARCH 45%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 8%

Results are based on 600 respondents, with a margin of error of ± 4.00 percent.
Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Research on Donated Embryos from Fertility Clinics

8. Which of these statements about research on donated embryos comes closer to your view? (ROTATE)
- a. Supporters say Georgia should allow research on stem cells taken from donated embryos from fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded. That research has the potential to find cures to save your life and the lives of your loved ones. It makes no sense to throw away embryos that could do so much good for so many people.
 - b. Opponents say Georgia should prohibit research on stem cells taken from donated embryos from fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded. Experimenting on viable human embryos for any purpose is a line that should not be crossed. That research is unethical and immoral.

ALLOW RESEARCH ON DONATED EMBRYOS 63%
PROHIBIT RESEARCH ON DONATED EMBRYOS 34%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 4%

Therapeutic Cloning

9. Which of these statements about therapeutic cloning research comes closer to your view? (ROTATE)
- a. Supporters say Georgia should allow therapeutic cloning research. Therapeutic cloning creates stem cells that could save your life or the lives of your loved ones. It does not create cloned babies. It uses a patient's own cell and an unfertilized egg to create stem cells in a laboratory that match the patient's genetic makeup. Those stem cells could then be used to develop new drugs and grow new cells to repair damaged organs that would be much less likely to be rejected because they would be genetically identical to the patient.
 - b. Opponents say Georgia should prohibit therapeutic cloning research. Therapeutic cloning creates a cloned human embryo which is then destroyed to obtain the stem cells. Experimenting on viable human embryos for any purpose is a line that should not be crossed. That research is unethical and immoral.

ALLOW THERAPEUTIC CLOING 55%
PROHIBIT THERAPEUTIC CLONING 42%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 4%

Results are based on 600 respondents, with a margin of error of ± 4.00 percent.
Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

Now that we have talked about these issues, let me ask you again if you support or oppose conducting particular types of medical research in Georgia. (RANDOMIZE)

IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE, ASK: Would that be strongly (support/oppose), or just somewhat (support/oppose)?

	<i>STRNG SUPP</i>	<i>SMWHT SUPP</i>	<i>SMWHT OPPS</i>	<i>STRNG OPPS</i>	<i>DON'T KNOW</i>
10. Research on stem cells taken from embryos that have been created in a laboratory for the purpose of research.	31%	26%	12%	28%	3%
	57%		40%		
11. Research on stem cells taken from donated embryos from fertility clinics that would otherwise be discarded.	42%	25%	7%	24%	2%
	67%		31%		
12. Therapeutic cloning research, or creating an embryo in a laboratory that would not be placed in a woman's body, but that would produce cells that could lead to new treatments for diseases.	32%	24%	11%	30%	3%
	56%		41%		

Now I am going to read two statements about therapeutic cloning research. Would you please tell me if each statement makes you more likely or less likely to support therapeutic cloning research, or if that statement has no effect on your position. (RANDOMIZE):

	<i>MORE LIKELY</i>	<i>LESS LIKELY</i>	<i>NO EFFECT</i>	<i>DON'T KNOW</i>
13. Therapeutic cloning research is strongly supported by many medical organizations and patient groups including the American Medical Association, the American Diabetes Association, the Christopher Reeves Paralysis Foundation, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Parkinson's Action Network.	48%	12%	39%	2%
14. Therapeutic cloning research is strongly opposed by many conservative religious groups including the National Catholic Conference, the National Right-to-Life Association, Focus on the Family, and the Coalition of Americans for Research Ethics.	19%	23%	56%	3%

15. Would you say you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statement: any medical research that is allowed by federal law should be allowed in Georgia?

STRONGLY AGREE	40%
SOMEWHAT AGREE	27%
SOMEWHAT DISAGREE	11%
STRONGLY DISAGREE.....	19%
DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION	3%

Results are based on 600 respondents, with a margin of error of ±4.00 percent.
Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

16. If embryonic stem cell research done outside of Georgia creates new medicines and treatments for diseases, do you think those medicines and treatments should be allowed or prohibited in Georgia?

ALLOWED.....75%
 PROHIBITED..... 19%
 DON'T KNOW/NO OPINION 7%

DEMOGRAPHICS

Now I have a few questions just for statistical purposes.

17. In politics today, do you normally think of yourself as (ROTATE: a Republican, an independent, or a Democrat)?

IF "REPUBLICAN" OR "DEMOCRAT", ASK:	STRONG REPUBLICAN.....21%
Would you consider yourself a strong or	NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN..... 13%
a not-so-strong Republican/Democrat?	INDEPENDENT LEAN REPUBLICAN 8%
	INDEPENDENT/NO PREFERENCE 12%
IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:	INDEPENDENT LEAN DEMOCRAT 10%
Do you think of yourself as closer to the	NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT9%
(ROTATE: Republican or Democratic Party)?	STRONG DEMOCRAT24%
	REFUSED.....3%

18. When thinking about politics today, do you normally consider yourself to be (ROTATE: very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative)?

VERY LIBERAL.....7%
 SOMEWHAT LIBERAL..... 16%
 MODERATE 31%
 SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE26%
 VERY CONSERVATIVE 17%
 NO OPINION4%

19. In general, would you say you are (ROTATE: pro-choice or pro-life) on abortion?

PRO-CHOICE.....48%
 PRO-LIFE 43%
 DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....9%

Results are based on 600 respondents, with a margin of error of ± 4.00 percent.
 Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

20. About how often do you attend religious services: more than once a week, once a week, a few times a month, a few times a year, or almost never?

MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK.....	19%
ONCE A WEEK	34%
FEW TIMES A MONTH.....	17%
FEW TIMES A YEAR	15%
ALMOST NEVER.....	13%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....	3%

21. Do you consider yourself to be part of the conservative Christian political movement, also known as the Religious Right?

YES	19%
NO.....	75%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....	6%

22. About how long have you lived in Georgia?

FEWER THAN 5 YEARS	8%
5 TO 9 YEARS	8%
10 TO 19 YEARS	14%
20 OR MORE YEARS	69%
DON'T KNOW/REFUSED.....	1%

23. Would you say the area where you live is urban, suburban, small town, or rural?

URBAN	21%
SUBURBAN.....	33%
SMALL TOWN	24%
RURAL.....	20%
REFUSED.....	2%

24. What was the last year of school you completed?

LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL	5%
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE.....	22%
SOME COLLEGE	26%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	26%
POST-COLLEGE	20%
REFUSED.....	2%

25. Would you please stop me when I read the correct category for your age?

18 TO 34	14%
35 TO 49	33%
50 TO 64	32%
65 OR OLDER.....	20%
REFUSED.....	2%

Results are based on 600 respondents, with a margin of error of ± 4.00 percent.
Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

26. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

IF "NO," ASK: What would you say is your main race (ROTATE: white, African-American, Asian), or something else?

YES/HISPANIC	1%
NO/WHITE.....	67%
NO/BLACK/AFRICAN-AMERICAN	28%
NO/ASIAN	1%
NO/OTHER	2%
REFUSED.....	1%

27. Would you please stop me when I read the correct category for your total household income?

\$15,000 OR LESS.....	8%
\$15,000 TO \$30,000	11%
\$30,000 TO \$50,000	18%
\$50,000 TO \$75,000	18%
\$75,000 OR MORE.....	29%
REFUSED.....	16%

28. Gender (from observation)

MALE	45%
FEMALE	55%

29. Finally, in which county do you live?

WRITE IN COUNTY FIPS CODE: _____

That's all the questions I have. Thank you very much for sharing your opinions with us.

Results are based on 600 respondents, with a margin of error of ± 4.00 percent.
Percentages may not equal 100 percent due to rounding.