

08 June 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to offer this letter of support on behalf Dr Miodrag Stojkovic for the creation of a stem cell institute in Kragujevac.

Stem cells and regenerative medicine are fast growing and evolving fields with a great potential for a novel therapeutic approach of multiple disabling and degenerative diseases in the future. In order to bring benefits of this new field of medicine and make such treatments available to its people, Serbia has to embark on stem cell research as soon as possible in spite of complexities and costs that accompany introducing of any new technology. The country simply cannot afford to stay behind the global drive in use of regenerative medicine for building better and healthier future.

Dr Miodrag Stojkovic is a world-renowned scientist in the field of regenerative medicine and stem cell biology. His career spans positions at top universities around different countries in Europe. His work on derivation, characterization and banking of human embryonic stem cells earned Dr Stojkovic reputation that lead to a position of Editor of *Stem Cells*, one of the most prestigious journals in the field. Serbia should take advantage of Dr Stojkovic's unique expertise and willingness to help the country.

The Stem Cell Institute in Kragujevac would complement groundbreaking efforts of the Institute for Mother in Child in Belgrade in building the first public cord blood bank in the country. I strongly recommend the Ministry of Health to act favourably on his proposal.



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