



For Immediate Release:

Date: February 25, 2009

Contact:
Angus McQuilken
Vice President for Communications
Cell: 617-921-7749
amcquilken@masslifesciences.com

Massachusetts Life Sciences Center Launches Second Round of New Investigator Grant Program
Center to begin accepting applications for New Investigator Grants March 9th

Boston, Massachusetts –The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC), the quasi-public agency tasked with implementing the State’s \$1 billion Life Sciences Initiative, has launched a second round of applications for the Center’s New Investigator grant program. The new grant round was authorized by the MLSC’s Board of Directors today with endorsement from the Center’s Scientific Advisory Board. The solicitation for the grant program and application materials will be available on the MLSC web site at www.masslifesciences.com by Monday, March 9th.

The MLSC’s New Investigator Grants seek to spur innovative new research and advance the careers of new investigators who are working on cutting-edge life sciences research at Massachusetts colleges, universities, and affiliated research institutions. Under the New Investigator Matching Grant Solicitation, the MLSC will provide an award of up to \$100,000 per year for each selected grant, for up to two years. Each investment includes a 1:1 match from the participating academic institution. The grants will support research that could lead to life saving therapies and commercialized products, and will further the goal of sustaining and growing the state’s vital life sciences super cluster.

Last year the MLSC awarded eleven grants totaling over \$3.1 million to new researchers affiliated with ten different institutions across the Commonwealth. Last year’s grant winners are researching topics such as the dissection of signaling pathways in the destruction of an oncoprotein and creating a molecular toolkit for the analysis of the human kinetochore.

“The New Investigator grant program builds on Massachusetts’ status as a leader in life sciences innovation by attracting new scientists and their research to our world-class academic institutions,” said Dr. Susan Windham Bannister, President & CEO of the MLSC. “The average age of a researcher receiving his or her first principal investigator funding from the National Institutes of Health is 43, and that can be discouraging to new investigators who are ready to make their impact on the life sciences. This program enhances our life sciences workforce, and the innovation pipeline that keeps our life sciences community vibrant and growing.”

“Important advances in medicine can only be realized, and treatments can only be developed and brought to market, if the relevant research is funded,” said Dr. Harvey Lodish, Chair of the MLSC Scientific Advisory Board, Member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research, and Professor of Biology and Bioengineering at MIT. “These grants will further the careers of new Massachusetts life sciences investigators, while bringing solid returns for our local economy and advancing medical and scientific knowledge.”

About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is a quasi-public agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts tasked with implementing the Massachusetts Life Sciences Act, a ten-year, \$1 billion initiative that was signed into law in June of 2008. The Center’s mission is to create jobs in the life sciences and support vital scientific research that will improve the human condition. This work includes making financial investments in public and private institutions that are advancing life sciences research, development and commercialization as well as building ties between sectors of the Massachusetts life sciences community. For more information, visit www.masslifesciences.com.