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Long Island Life Sciences Initiative Applauds State Investment

September 24, 2002 (Albany, NY) - Governor Pataki, State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, and Nassau County's Senate Delegation recently announced today that the State will grant \$48 million to Long Island's biotechnology economy. The investment is part of a \$71.5 million initiative in partnership with Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, OSI Pharmaceuticals, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Institute, as well as Hofstra University, SUNY Farmingdale, and Malloy College.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for the life sciences community on Long Island, and I praise the Governor and the Nassau County Senate Delegation for their commitment to this industry," said Joe Scaduto, Executive Director of the Long Island Life Sciences Initiative (LILSI). "Government support of the life sciences is a critical component to making this region globally competitive, and the State's investment in the academic and research infrastructure on Long Island is a significant step towards creating a nurturing environment in which the life sciences community can thrive," he added.

Specific projects that will benefit from State support include a Bioinformatics Research Center at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, an Ultra High Field Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit at the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Research Institute, an Incubator at the Broad Hollow Bioscience Park at SUNY Farmingdale, an Institute for the Development of Education in the Advanced Sciences (IDEAS Center) at Hofstra University, and the Long Island Center for K-12 Science Education at Malloy College.

The broader life sciences industry has already been recognized as a leading economic driver for the future, and Long Island is currently home to a vibrant life sciences community that includes almost 300 companies, as well as major academic research institutions such as Brookhaven National Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, the North Shore-Long Island Jewish Research Institute and Stony Brook University. A press release from the Governor's office explained that the investment by the State will "augment existing research capacity, enhance educational opportunities and expand available commercial/laboratory facilities..." (<http://www.state.ny.us/governor/>).

LILSI is a regional trade association focused on the attraction, retention and development of life sciences firms to Long Island, and aims to address issues of strategic importance to the growth of the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, and life systems technology (nutriceutical, cosmeceutical) sectors. More information can be found on the LILSI website (www.lilsi.org), or by calling 631-632-1080.