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Bernard Siegel Congratulates GPI Science Advisor Elizabeth Blackburn for Receiving Nobel Prize

WASHINGTON--([BUSINESS WIRE](#))--Bernard Siegel, Executive Director of the Genetics Policy Institute (GPI), issued the following statement congratulating Dr. Elizabeth Blackburn who was named to receive the 2009 Nobel Prize in Medicine. Since 2004, Dr. Blackburn has served as a member of the GPI Science Advisory Board.

"Elizabeth Blackburn has made a profound contribution to medicine as a co-discoverer of telomerase which has launched a major cancer research field and has led to an increased understanding of aging."

"Beyond her scientific accomplishments, patient advocates and scientists admire Dr. Blackburn as a courageous proponent for ethical scientific research. While serving on the President's Council for Bioethics she disapproved the past administration's political restrictions on stem cell research. Because she fearlessly spoke her mind, she paid the price of being dismissed from the Council."

"We at GPI congratulate her monumental achievement on being named to receive the Nobel Prize and recognize her as a person of compassion and integrity in defending freedom of scientific research and the quest for cures."

Genetics Policy Institute (GPI) supports stem cell research to develop therapeutics and cures. In addition to Dr. Blackburn, the GPI Science Advisory Board includes some of the leading researchers in science and medicine including Rudolf Jaenisch, Ian Wilmut, Alan Trounson, Lawrence S.B. Goldstein, Douglas Melton and John Gearhart among other luminaries in the field.

GPI pursues its mission by producing the World Stem Cell Summit, publishing the *World Stem Cell Report*, honoring leadership through the Stem Cell Action Awards, organizing educational initiatives and fostering strategic collaborations. For more information about GPI, visit www.genpol.org.

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