



Stem Cell Advocacy Group Revokes Global Achievement Award to Woo Suk Hwang



By Staff

(AXcess News) Washington - The Genetics Policy Institute (GPI) said Friday that it has revoked its 2005 Global Achievement Award, given to Dr. Woo Suk Hwang at that organization's Stem Cell Policy and Advocacy Summit in Houston, Texas in June 2005.

"The Global Achievement Award was intended for an individual who has made a monumental worldwide contribution to the field of stem cells and regenerative medicine. The basis for recognizing Dr. Hwang was his reported landmark achievement in the creation of patient-matched stem cell lines. However, the results of an investigation by Seoul National University have shown that Hwang's results were largely fabricated. Dr. Hwang's May 2005 paper in the journal *Science* has been withdrawn. Based upon these regrettable circumstances, the GPI Global Achievement Award has been revoked," said Bernard Siegel, executive director of GPI.

"The *Science* article raised the hopes of many patients, their families and friends," Siegel continued. "Dr Hwang stood in front of our audience and accepted accolades and applause that he did not deserve. His conduct is a grave disappointment to the stem cell advocacy movement and constitutes a betrayal of trust to the patient community."

"The derivation of patient matched stem cell lines still holds great promise to those suffering from diabetes, spinal cord injuries, Parkinson's and a host of other afflictions for which no cure is yet known. Stem cell research will surely advance, thanks to the efforts of many dedicated scientists throughout the world who realize that science and ethics are inseparable."

"The lesson to be learned is that research needs to be moved forward in the United States, funded by NIH, under strict ethical guidelines," Siegel said.

Date: December 23, 2005

Section: Health News

The URL for this article is: <http://www.axcessnews.com/modules/wfsection/article.php?articleid=7298>