



PRESS RELEASE

**Hauptman-Woodward, Dr. Timothy Umland Receive \$250,000
from the Richard W. and Mae Stone Goode Foundation
to Aid in Research on Birth Defects and Certain Cancers**

FOR RELEASE: February 24, 2006

The Richard W. and Mae Stone Goode Foundation has made a \$250,000 grant to the Hauptman-Woodward Medical Research Institute, Inc. (HWI) to support Dr. Timothy Umland's research on developmental disorders and certain cancers. The grant will be used to provide the necessary financial support to purchase key equipment, necessary staff support and other supporting supplies.

"The Richard W. and Mae Stone Goode Foundation's support is key to this research project's future success. Their support will cover current expenses and help ensure that we can move the project to the level where it will be competitive for the future funding that is so necessary for us to accomplish our mission – determining how to target and prevent developmental disorders and certain cancers," Umland, HWI research scientist, said.

The goal of the project being supported by this grant is to characterize the structural determinants that differentiate the biological activity of the HOX proteins – when they work properly, healthy development is the result. When they don't work properly, developmental defects occur. Once more in-depth data is available, it will be used for the prediction of human genes regulated by specific HOX proteins and will reveal new therapeutic targets.

Basically, the research will lead to a greater understanding of key factors in the development of a human embryo into a fetus and how the HOX proteins control which part of the body becomes the head, arms, legs and so on, as well as the proper placement of a human's internal organs. The HOX proteins also are important over a lifetime. These proteins are involved in controlling the formation of new blood cells and maintaining internal organs.

Segments of the project are being conducted in collaboration with Dr. Kenneth Gross from the Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Dr. Gross has a long-standing interest in Hox regulation of renin expression in the kidney. Renin is important for blood pressure control.

Celebrating 50 years of exceptional scientific research, HWI is an independent, non-profit facility specializing in the area of fundamental biomedical research known as structural biology. Our team of more than 70 staff members is committed to improving human health by studying the causes of diseases, as well as potential therapies, at their basic molecular level. We are located in the heart of the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus in downtown Buffalo, New York, in a new state-of-the-art structural biology research center at 700 Ellicott Street. For more information, visit HWI's website at <http://www.hwi.buffalo.edu> or call 716-898-8600.