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The Commonwealth Proclaims Oct. 21 Biomedical Research Day

CAMP HILL, PA – October 20, 2009 – Governor Ed Rendell has proclaimed Oct. 21, 2009, Biomedical Research Day in Pennsylvania, recognizing biomedical research as offering the best hope for new breakthroughs in detecting and treating diseases in the future.

Additionally, Sen. Stewart Greenleaf and Rep. Robert Godshall have sponsored similar resolutions in the General Assembly. Senate Resolution 195 was adopted October 6; House Resolution 508 was introduced October 16.

“The declaration of Biomedical Research Day honors the scientific accomplishments; the advances in medicine; and the academic institutions, companies and scientists engaged in this field,” said John Ellis, Ph.D., executive director for the Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research (PSBR). “It is even more appropriate to have a Biomedical Research Day here, as Pennsylvania is recognized as a world leader in discovering knowledge that promotes health and the treatment of diseases.”

Biomedical research helps to advance knowledge that is critical to the development of safe and effective medical therapies needed by individual patients and even animals. The humane use of laboratory animals in biomedical research is essential in this effort, at least for the foreseeable future. Laboratory animals provide the most reliable safety assurances currently available about medical therapies, offering access to complex biologic systems in lieu of human experimentation. Scientists routinely seek and use alternatives to animals wherever those alternatives provide reliable data, reducing the number of animals needed to fulfill study requirements.

“Biomedical research has increased the human life span through the development of vaccines, antibiotics and anti-infective drugs,” Dr. Ellis said. “Further, researchers in the field are working diligently toward cures for diseases such as Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, AIDS, cancer, diabetes, epilepsy, heart and lung diseases, mental illnesses, multiple sclerosis and countless other diseases that affect millions nationwide.”

Biomedical research also contributes to the health and well-being of animals, through vaccines and other medicines, and has helped the prospects for endangered species by reducing diseases and promoting reproduction.

About PSBR: The Pennsylvania Society for Biomedical Research works to promote a better public understanding of the value of animal-based biomedical research and the vital role the responsible use of animals plays in improving the quality of human and animal health. The society was formed in 1990 by universities, medical schools, pharmaceutical firms, and professional societies across Pennsylvania. Its membership and supporters in the Commonwealth and Delaware include many leading biomedical research and educational institutions, healthcare-related corporations, professional societies, hospitals, and companies supporting biomedical research. Visit www.psbr.org.