

October 18, 2006
For Immediate Release

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\$500,000 Federal Appropriation for Institute of Systems Medicine
Ready for President's Signature

Spokane, WA – Spokane's Institute for Systems Medicine (ISM) is set to receive a \$500,000 federal appropriation. ISM received the news today from Congresswoman Cathy McMorris (R-WA). The funding is part of the Department of Defense Appropriations Bill for FY 2006, which received congressional approval and awaits the President's signature.

The money will be utilized by ISM scientists, working in the field of epigenetics, a specialty field in genomic research, to investigate the causes of battlefield diseases.

"It's an honor to have played a role in helping secure this funding for ISM to do research that is so critical for the men and women in our military," McMorris said. "The funding will help ensure the Inland Northwest continues to be a leader in health solutions and technology innovations. It also demonstrates the confidence the entire community and congressional delegation has in the ability of ISM to perform world-class science in Spokane."

Washington State University professor Dr. Mike Skinner added, "This appropriation will allow ISM to be at the forefront of medical research and help attract more world-class scientists to Spokane. The research will have implications for disease diagnosis and treatment within the civilian population as well," added Skinner, who will lead the research project and whose discoveries formed the basis for the funded research.

"Congresswoman McMorris's guidance and tireless efforts, along with the support of Sen. Patty Murray and Sen. Maria Cantwell, were key in securing this important appropriation," said John Stone, chair of ISM's Board of Directors. "I also want to thank the entire ISM board, its partners and community leaders for their determined effort to bring these important funds to ISM. We now have financial support from local, state and federal governments as well as significant funding from our university and healthcare partners as well as private individuals. Our success reflects the community's understanding of the many benefits ISM will bring to residents of our region."

ISM is a newly forming private medical research institution that seeks to transform the face of medicine, applying the 4 P's (predictive, preventive, personalized, participatory) to the treatment of human disease. ISM partners and sponsors include; Washington State University, Gonzaga University, Empire Health Services, Providence Health Care, the Institute for Systems Biology, Spokane County and Avista Corporation.