



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Jennifer Shilling**

95<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 28, 2008

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## Rep. Shilling: WARF Patent Claim Upheld; Big News for Wisconsin's Role as Stem Cell Leader

MADISON – Today the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation announced that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has upheld WARF's claim of an important stem cell patent. In an effort to undercut Wisconsin's role as leader in stem cell research, two foundations in New York and California challenged WARF's claim of one of its key patents.

Representative Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse), a board member of the Wisconsin Technology Council, issued this statement following the announcement:

“UW-Madison's cutting edge stem cell research and scientific discoveries have put Wisconsin on the map as an international leader in the biotech industry. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's ruling on patent 913 has reaffirmed that position.

“The challenge of these patents has also highlighted the importance of investing in Wisconsin's high tech economy. Just as it is important for any investor to have a diversified stock portfolio, Wisconsin must diversify its technology sector portfolio. Other states and countries are constantly investing in their high tech infrastructure to attract businesses, increase the number of educated workers, and grow the knowledge sectors of their economies.

“If Wisconsin is going to remain a leader in high tech research and discovery we must make the necessary investments to grow our knowledge-based innovation economy and position our state to be a leader in the 21<sup>st</sup> century economy.”

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