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Father Thomas Hartman, Founder of the Thomas Hartman Foundation for Parkinson's Research, and Celebrity Partner in The God Squad, to Present Closing Keynote Address at The 2006 Life Sciences Industry Summit

Stony Brook, NY, April 19, 2006 – The Long Island Life Sciences Initiative (LILSI) and the Center for Biotechnology, a New York State designated Center for Advanced Technology announced today that Monsignor Tom Hartman will present the closing keynote address at the 2006 Life Sciences Industry Summit – “Building Critical Mass: Long Island at the Tipping Point”, on May 4, 8 – 5 pm at the Hilton Long Island/Huntington Hotel.

Father Tom, as he is widely known, is nationally recognized for his TV and radio appearances as a partner in The God Squad, a collaborative effort with Rabbi Marc Gellman that explores spiritual/religious issues that affect Americans today. Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease five years ago, he founded the Thomas Hartman Foundation for Parkinson's Research with the single mission of finding a cure for this debilitating disease. The Thomas Hartman Foundation seeks to provide grants for the newest and most innovative scientific projects which offer the best hope for the advancement and development of a cure.

"It is my hope that we on Long Island who have known the illnesses of family members, might expend the best of our efforts to working together to cure all diseases. If we allow personal interests, pride or jealousy to get in our way, we will have done humanity a deep disservice. It is in this light that I am honored to come and meet with such great scientists, to learn from them, and to share with them the best path to a cure."

In October 2004, The Foundation pledged \$4.4 million over five years to create the new Thomas Hartman Parkinson's Research Laboratory at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory to focus on three core areas of Parkinson's research: genes, cells and circuits. “Mobilizing the life sciences assets in the region toward a specific goal, in this case to find a cure for Parkinson's disease, is very much what our Center and the Long Island Life Sciences Initiative is all about. Ensuring a strong research base and creating an environment in which the life sciences industry can flourish are central goals that will not only impact our local economy, but also lead to improved diagnosis and life-saving therapies” commented Diane Fabel, Director of Operations for the Center for Biotechnology.

About the Life Sciences Summit:

The Summit brings together approximately 250 life sciences industry leaders each year to explore issues of strategic importance to industry growth including emerging companies and technologies, financing issues, regulatory affairs, and business development opportunities. In addition to Father Hartman's closing plenary address, these interactive panel sessions will be complimented by an opening plenary, "The Bioethical Challenges of the 21st Century" featuring speakers from Alden March Bioethics Institute at SUNY Albany, and Luncheon keynote, Richard Worzel, C.F.A, a leading North American futurist and best selling author who will present, "The View from 2030: The Future of Life Sciences." The May 4th event will take place at the Hilton Long Island/Huntington, and will conclude with a networking reception. For more information: Call 631-632-1743 or visit www.lils.org.

About LILSI:

LILSI's mission is to attract, retain and develop life sciences companies in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device, nutraceutical and personal care sectors on Long Island by providing business development, strategic networking, and educational opportunities to enhance industry growth. For more information: www.lils.org.

About the Center for Biotechnology:

The Center for Biotechnology is a cooperative research and development partnership between Stony Brook University, private industry and New York State. It is involved in the co-development and commercialization of promising technologies resulting from academic and industry research, and the creation of strategic infrastructure that promotes the growth of the life sciences industry. The Center is sponsored by the Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research. For more information: www.biotech.sunysb.edu.

About the Thomas Hartman Foundation: The Thomas Hartman Foundation is dedicated to the single purpose of finding a cure for Parkinson's disease and provides grants for the newest and most innovative scientific projects which offer the best hope for the advancement and development of a cure. For more information: www.hartmanfoundation.org