



For Immediate Release
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Masonic Medical Research Laboratory Receives \$400,000 from Regional Economic Development Council

Albany NY – The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory (MMRL), learned today that it will receive \$400,000 in funding as part of Governor Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) program. This year marks the seventh year of the REDC program and the second time that MMRL has received funding for total of \$950,000.

This year’s funding will be used to purchase several pieces of highly specialized research equipment including a VisualSonics echo machine, a Keyence microscope and a mass spectrometer.

“Conducting science and research is an expensive endeavor, and as federal funding has become more competitive, support from New York State is all the more important,” said Dr. Maria Kontaridis, Director of Research MMRL. “We are very grateful to Governor Cuomo, the SIAT team, the members of the Mohawk Valley REDC and our local Utica-area representatives in the State Legislature for their support. Thanks to them, we will be able to ensure that MMRL continues to be an international center for cardiac research based in the Mohawk Valley.”

The first phase of the project at MMRL began in early July and includes a multi-million dollar renovation that will completely modernize and upgrade 6,800 square feet of research space on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the laboratory. The renovation project will transform 60-year-old space into a state of the art laboratory that will house a new and expanded research ventures.

MMRL also announced in November the appointment of Dr. Maria Kontraridis as its new Director of Research. Dr. Kontaridis comes to MMRL from Harvard Medical School, where she is currently an Associate Professor of Medicine, and the Director of the Basic Cardiovascular Research Program at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), one of the nation’s preeminent academic medical centers.

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About the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory

The Masonic Medical Research Laboratory is a not-for-profit institute founded by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York in 1958 and is dedicated to improving the health and quality of life for all. The Laboratory is also committed to providing education and training to basic scientists, clinical researchers and students who will perpetuate and extend the fight against disease. Please visit www.mmrl.edu to learn more.

