CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

November 24, 2010
Translational Research Journal

CIRM RFP # 2243

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) seeks a publisher for an on-line, open-access journal on focusing on translational aspects of stem cell research. CIRM will subsidize the start-up phase of such an undertaking by a publisher with a proven track record that offers a business plan that would allow the subsidy to be phased out within three years or less. Full details are provided in this Request for Proposals (RFP).

If you have questions about the process for submitting a proposal, contact:

Cynthia Schaffer
Contracts Administrator
(415) 396-9241
cschaffer@cirm.ca.gov

If you have questions the scope services to be addressed in a proposal, contact:

Don Gibbons
Chief Communications Officer
(415) 396-9117
dgibbons@cirm.ca.gov

Deadline for Response: All required documents (including CD and hard copy with original signature) must be received at CIRM no later than **5:00 pm** Pacific Time on **January 10, 2010**.

1. Introduction

1.1. CIRM

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) was established in early 2005 following the passage of Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative. The statewide ballot measure, which provided $3 billion in funding for stem cell research at California universities and research institutions, was approved by California voters on November 2, 2004, and called for the establishment of a new state agency to make grants and provide loans for stem cell research, research facilities and other vital research opportunities.

The mission of CIRM is to support and advance stem cell research and regenerative medicine under the highest ethical and medical standards for the discovery and development of cures, therapies, diagnostics and research technologies to relieve human suffering from chronic disease and injury.

To date, the CIRM governing board has approved 345 research, training and facility grants totaling more than $1 billion, making CIRM the largest source of funding for human embryonic stem cell research in the world. Estimates suggest that these grants already awarded will generate tens of thousands of job-years of employment in the state. For more information please see www.cirm.ca.gov.

1.2. Goals for this Contract

The agency believes that translational science, moving discoveries from the laboratory to the clinic, as it relates to stem cell therapies and regenerative medicine, will have many unique aspects not reflected in other avenues to therapeutic development and will likely not be given sufficient and cohesive coverage in other research journals. Raising these issues in priority to where they become the main mission of a journal will foster the acceleration of the entire field as knowledge is aggregated and shared more readily and by encouraging collaborations between stem cell biologists, clinicians and engineers. Given the urgency of its mission, and the role an online journal could play in advancing the field, CIRM wants to accelerate the creation and publication of a journal that will accomplish this goal. To that end, CIRM is offering to subsidize start up costs of a new online journal. CIRM is requesting proposals from firms that can show an ability to produce a peer-reviewed, open access, on-line journal.

2. Scope of Services Required

CIRM will subsidize startup costs for publication of an online journal focusing on translational aspects of: stem cell science, stem cell-based regenerative medicine and tissue engineering, stem cell-based predictive toxicology, and cancer stem cell investigation. The publisher must be able to solicit, review and publish important

manuscripts in the field, and also provide for rapid review and dissemination of negative data. There should also be provision for CIRM, with agreement from the editors, to provide periodic short articles on translational stem cell research. Editorial decisions shall be completely independent from CIRM. The editorial board and reviewers need to be independent from CIRM and from the publisher. The editorial board should be diverse with leading experts from stem cell research, clinical translation and engineering. The business plan must show an ability to be self-sustaining within three years via advertising, page charges, or other means. (If that business plan requires that the online journal be supplemented with a paid print version, CIRM will consider including that in the contact.) The online journal's first issue date should be within six months of the commencement of this contract.

2. Budget

The budget submitted with the RFP Proposal MUST include a three-year budget, requiring a CIRM subsidy not to exceed $200,000 per year, and suggesting the ability to become self-sustaining after three years.

3. Qualifications Required

The ideal firm for this contract will have the following qualifications.

- Proven track record of attracting, reviewing and publishing high quality scientific manuscripts.
- Existing on-line peer review and publication system or other means to reduce the start-up costs and time needed to create such an on-line system.
- Financial resources sufficient to meet startup costs not covered by CIRM's subsidy.

3.1 Qualifications Desired

- Editorial team familiar with translational science, stem cells, stem cell-based regenerative medicine and tissue engineering and/or cancer stem cells.

4. Submitting a Proposal

4.1. Documents to be Submitted

There are two REQUIRED parts to an RFP proposal. Part I (Consultant Information) is attached to this RFP as a form to be completed and returned with your proposal. There is no form for Part II (Proposal and Qualifications). You should prepare a PDF or Word document with information about your firm and your responses to the questions listed in the next section.

4.2. Proposal and Qualifications

Provide straightforward and concise responses to the following in a separate document:

A. Qualifications and Experience. Discuss how your experience demonstrates your ability to successfully complete the Scope of Services. Describe your experience publishing peer-reviewed and/or online journals.

B. Qualification of Staff/Resumes. Identify the staff that will be providing the services required by the proposal, including years and type of experience.

C. Comparable Projects. Provide a brief list and description of similar types of comparable projects successfully undertaken within the last three years. Provide relevant samples of your work.

D. Detailed Proposal. Describe how you intend to approach the project described in this RFP including frequency of publication, number of anticipated articles etc. Develop and present a plan for creating the journal described, commencing publication within six months, and becoming self-sufficient within three years.

E. California Editorial Offices. Preference will be given to publishers committed to California-based editorial offices.

4.3. Submission

4.3.1. Format

Please submit a hard copy of the proposal, with original signature, and a digital copy on a CD. Both the hard copy and the digital copy must be received at CIRM before the deadline.

Hard Copy: Submit one hard copy, with original signature.

Digital: Submit a CD with a PDF version of the hard copy, as well as digital versions of samples of past work.

4.3.2. Delivery

The proposal envelope(s) should be addressed as follows and must be plainly marked with the RFP number and title:

Cynthia Schaffer, Contracts Administrator
RFP # 2243 Translational Research Journal
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
210 King Street, 3rd Floor
San Francisco, CA 94107

4.3.3. Deadline

All submittals must be received at CIRM no later than 5:00 pm Pacific Time, January 10, 2010.

5. Selection

The purpose of the proposal evaluation process is twofold: (1) to assess the responses for compliance with the RFP's minimum qualifications, content and format requirements; and (2) to identify the publisher that has the highest probability of satisfactorily performing the services requested by CIRM. The evaluation process will be conducted in a comprehensive and impartial manner as set forth herein. Preference will be given to publishers committed to California-based editorial offices.

Proposals will undergo an evaluation process conducted by CIRM staff. Those proposals that CIRM staff believe best meet the requirements for services sought under this RFP will be considered finalist candidates. The finalist candidates may be interviewed by CIRM staff and may have their references checked.

In evaluating the proposals, CIRM will consider the perceived quality of the response, including Consultant's proposed approach to the scope of services, schedule, references, experience and qualifications. Evaluation will include consideration of the following factors:

1. Relevant Experience and Ability. Evaluation of prospective publishers will include review of relevant experience, including experience publishing peer-reviewed journals.

2. Responsiveness to Project Requirements. Evaluation of prospective publishers will include consideration of responsiveness to the CIRM's scope of services and requirements described in this RFP. Attentiveness to and compliance with RFP instructions and other aspects of the selection process will be taken as an indication of responsiveness.

3. Availability. Evaluation of prospective consultants will include their availability to take on this project in a timely manner and to begin publication within six months.

6. Key Action Dates

Date	Action
November 24, 2010	RFP available
January 10, 5:00 pm	Final Date for Proposal Submission. See page 4.
January 24, 2010	Proposed Award Date

7. Contract Terms

CIRM's standard Independent Consultant Agreement is attached, and the selected individual/firm will be expected to comply with its terms, including insurance requirements. Please review the contract terms before submitting your proposal.

8. Additional Information

A. A proposal may be rejected if it is conditional or incomplete, or if it contains any alterations of form or other irregularities of any kind. CIRM may waive any deviation in a proposal. CIRM's waiver of a deviation shall in no way modify the RFP document or excuse the proposer from full compliance with all requirements if awarded the contract.

B. CIRM may reject any or all proposals.

C. Costs incurred for developing proposals and in anticipation of award of the agreement are entirely the responsibility of the proposer and shall not be charged to CIRM.

D. A proposer may withdraw its proposal by submitting a written withdrawal request to CIRM, signed by the Proposer or an authorized agent. A proposer may not modify a proposal after its submission. If the submission deadline has not passed, a proposer may withdraw its original proposal and submit a new proposal. Proposal modifications offered in any other manner, oral or written, will not be considered.

E. CIRM may modify the RFP prior to the date fixed for submission of proposals by posting the modified RFP on its website. If you are preparing a proposal, you should check the CIRM website for modifications to the RFP.

F. CIRM will not consider more than one proposal from an individual, firm, partnership, corporation or association, under the same or different names.

G. No oral understanding or agreement shall be binding on either party.

H. All documents submitted in response to this RFP will become the property of CIRM, and will be regarded as public records under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.) and subject to review by the public.

9. Attached Documents

A. Notice Regarding Public Release of Proposals
B. Form I: Consultant Information (required with Proposal submission)
C. CIRM's Standard Independent Consultant Agreement