

Travel - Office of the Chair

The Office of the Chair's travel in the next fiscal year is strategically planned to address and explore major funding opportunities for CA stem cell research and the state's research collaborators.

The budget targets significant funding and potential for major interest savings for California as well as advancing federal regulatory approval and standards for new stem cell therapies. This includes:

- Federal tax exemption for California bonds to finance research grant awards; The State Treasurer's Office projected \$400M savings over time
- \$500 million in potential federal stem cell loan guarantees
- \$125-165 million in private placement of California General Obligation cell bonds
- Critical federal regulatory approvals essential to advance over \$1 billion in research funding



Travel – Science Office

It is essential that CIRM's Science Officers attend numerous scientific meetings and conferences in order to:

- Establish and maintain themselves as leaders in the stem cell field;
- Stay abreast of the rapid advances in stem cell science.

As the stem cell field and CIRM's research portfolio expand, Science Officers will need to attend a wider range of meetings, including subspecialty meetings focused on diseases in which CIRM is, or may become, involved. This will be especially important for designing RFAs that are targeted at areas of greatest need and opportunity.

The annual meeting of the ISSCR is the largest stem cell meeting in the world and attracts the leaders in the field. It is important that as many Science Officers as possible attend so that all topics can be covered. This is also the best venue for Science Officers to evaluate and recruit new members to the Grants Working Group.

The CSO has major responsibilities in developing international collaborations, interfacing with regulatory agencies (e.g. FDA) and representing CIRM at many meetings and workshops.



Travel - Office of the President

The President is CIRM's point representative to the scientific community and is invited to many scientific meetings and symposia around the world.

The President plays a central role in finalizing agreements with international partners. Such agreements have already brought commitments for more than \$60M to advance CIRM's mission through collaborations between scientists from California and other countries.

Growing interactions and coordination with federal agencies will require several trips to Washington, DC.

- Increasing communication with the FDA will keep CIRM involved in developing regulations governing therapies involving stem cells.
- Coordination and collaboration with the NIH will avoid unnecessary overlap in funding programs and could lead to significantly increased research funding for California's stem cell scientists.

