

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING WORKING GROUP OF  
THE  
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE**

**Approval of Honorarium for Review Activities of the Working Group**

Scientific members of the Grants Working Group provide an invaluable and essential service to the CIRM by providing their expert advice and recommendations on the scientific merit of applications submitted to CIRM for funding. More experienced reviewers are often asked by multiple funding organizations to provide advice and to help in grant reviews. Therefore, CIRM needs to be competitive in providing them honoraria if we are to retain them for the important job of grants reviews. This is especially important in light of the fact that the reviewers for CIRM are not eligible to be applicants for CIRM funding. This is not the typical case in other contexts where a reviewer has the prospect to apply for funding from the very organization he or she is aiding in the review. Although there are important advantages to recruiting reviewers from outside of California, this policy tends to reduce the overall pool of available reviewers and poses a greater challenge in persuading them to participate.

Currently, CIRM provides a flat rate honorarium to scientific members of the GWG, which does not allow adjustments in compensation that are appropriate to the level of review and the time contributed by working group members. In the years to come, CIRM will embark on new and varied funding initiatives that will each impose different requirements on scientific members of the GWG both in workload and time commitment. Some of these differences relate to the fact that grant applications for translational and pre-clinical studies are significantly more complex than those for basic biology projects and require more specialized review. Additionally, the chair of the GWG will generally take on a greater level of commitment in leading the review and Specialist reviewers who provide ad hoc expertise will have more diversified roles.

Therefore, to compensate our reviewers appropriately for their essential and highly skilled work, the CIRM President requests that the current flat rate honorarium be changed to a more flexible and adjustable honorarium that provides \$750 per day of service (or fraction thereof). This change would allow CIRM to compensate reviewers in a manner that is more closely aligned with the work contributed for a specific review and other GWG business and it will enable CIRM to attract the expertise that is vital to its success.