CIRM Scientific and Medical Research Funding Working Group
Biographical information of candidates nominated to serve as Scientific Members of the Working Group

Roger A Barker, BA, MBBS, MRCP, PhD

Dr. Barker is Professor of Clinical Neuroscience at the University of Cambridge and an Honorary consultant neurologist at the Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge UK. Dr. Barker did his undergraduate training at Oxford University and his clinical training at St Thomas' Hospital in London. He then completed his general medical training in London, during which time he developed the apomorphine test for assessing dopaminergic responsiveness in Parkinson's disease (PD). Dr. Barker moved to Cambridge in 1991 to undertake a PhD at the University on neural grafting in PD with Professor Stephen Dunnett and James Fawcett. In 1994, he went on to complete his specialist training in neurology including an 18-month time working at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery at Queen Square in London. In 1997 he returned to Cambridge as an MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship and took up his current position in 2000.

Dr. Barker combines clinical research in Huntington's (HD) and Parkinson's disease (PD) with more fundamental research in the laboratory on better therapies for these conditions, including cell-based approaches. The clinical research concentrates on defining the spectrum of deficits in these disorders and the heterogeneity of these diseases and the basis for this. He also is an active neurologist who sees patients with general neurological problems in clinics and in the hospital, in addition to which he runs specialist clinics for patients with HD and PD.

Dr. Barker has published close to 300 papers and sits on the editorial boards of many journals and is Co-Editor in chief of the Journal of Neurology and an Associate Editor of the Journal of Parkinson's Disease. Dr. Barker chairs the European Research Council (ERC) LS5 advanced grant panel in Neurosciences and also sits on the research advisory board of several charities in the UK. He is the coordinator of the FP7 TRANSEURO project looking at fetal cell grafting in patients with early PD.

Ole Isacson, MD, PhD

Dr. Isacson is Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Neuroregeneration Research Institute at the McLean Hospital at Harvard Medical School. He received his Medical Bachelor (1984) and Doctor of Medicine (as a full PhD doctoral degree and training in Medical Neurobiology, 1987) from the University of Lund (Sweden). His postdoctoral fellowship and training were at Cambridge University (England) from where he was recruited as assistant Professor to Harvard University (1989). Dr. Isacson's fundamental research has provided novel concepts and discoveries using ES and iPS cells to model brain diseases and for therapeutic neuroprotection and restoration of degenerated brain cell circuitry in Parkinson's disease.

Dr Isacson is the founding Director of the Neuroregeneration Research Institute at McLean Hospital/Harvard Medical School, which has grown from his original laboratory established in 1989. Dr. Isacson is principal faculty of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and a

member of the Advisory Board for the Harvard NeuroDiscovery Center. He is the Executive Director of the NIH/NINDS PD iPS Research Consortium. He is a recipient of awards, including the Fernstrom Foundation Research Scholarship Award (Lund University), the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences: Lindahl Young Investigator Award, the Bernard Sanberg Memorial Prize for Brain Repair (ASNTR), and the Druker Memorial Lecture Award (Boston). He is a member of the MJFF Scientific Advisory Board and the Scientific Advisory Council for NeuroStemCell of the Eurostem Consortia. He is the current Editor in Chief of *Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience*. He has published over 300 original peer-reviewed scientific articles and reviews.

Samir Mehta, MD

Dr. Mehta is Assistant Professor in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. He completed his BA degree at Northwestern University in the Integrated Science Program with a minor in English and then returned to his hometown of Philadelphia to earn his MD at Temple University. Dr. Mehta completed an orthopaedic surgery residency at the University of Pennsylvania where he was a research fellow and was also awarded the DeForest Willard Award. Having developed an interest in orthopaedic traumatology, Dr. Mehta furthered his education as an orthopaedic trauma fellow at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, Washington. Upon completion of his orthopaedic trauma fellowship, he was awarded the AO John Border European Trauma Award as the best graduating orthopaedic trauma fellow from North America and continued his education at the University of Saarland in Homburg, Germany. Dr. Mehta then took a faculty position at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania as Chief or the Orthopaedic Trauma and Fracture Service. He has a particular interest in pelvic and acetabular fractures, repair of non-unions and malunions, and reconstruction of peri-articular fractures.

Dr. Mehta is also actively involved with the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery (AAOS), the American Orthopaedic Association, and the Orthopaedic Trauma Association. He has been awarded the prestigious American Orthopaedic Association-North American Traveling Fellowship and also has served as an AAOS Health Policy Fellow on Capitol Hill. Dr. Mehta has participated in over fifty peer review publications, has multiple current studies, and has presented on numerous occasions nationally and internationally. He has been actively involved in multiple research projects examining graduate medical education and is currently a faculty member for the AAOS Course for Orthopaedic Educators. Dr. Mehta is actively involved in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania serving on the Graduate Medical Education Committee, Finance Committee, as the Trauma Liaison, and participating in Resident Applicant Interviews. In addition, Dr. Mehta enjoys running and traveling.