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

Stewart Abbot, PhD, MSc

Dr. Abbot is Executive Director of Integrative Research at Celgene Cellular Therapeutics (CCT). He holds a BSc degree in biological sciences from Edinburgh University, an MSc in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Strathclyde, and a PhD in Pathology from the University of London. His academic career focused on vascular biology, pharmacology, and toxicology. At CCT, Dr. Abbot has lead the group's efforts to isolate, characterize, and develop novel therapeutics based on human placenta-derived stem cells. Dr. Abbot has been involved in Investigational New Drug (IND) application filings and initiation of clinical trials, interaction with pre-clinical, clinical and manufacturing teams, and strategy development to broaden the cell therapy pipeline, technology, and IP portfolios. He has also maintains efforts to form broad alliance partnerships to develop gene-modified cell-based immunotherapies for cancer.

Before joining CCT, Dr. Abbot joined Amersham Biosciences where he developed cell-based assay systems for pharmaceutical screening. Following acquisition of Amersham by General Electric's Global Research Center, he began managing the Molecular and Cellular Biology Research Laboratory where he developed GE's expertise in umbilical cord blood and human embryonic stem cell biology.

Carol H. Danielson, MS, DrPH, RAC

Dr. Carol Danielson has provided regulatory expertise and leadership for more than twenty-five years for drugs, biologics and medical devices from discovery through post-marketing. Her areas of specialization include regulatory strategy and submissions, clinical affairs and compliance, and quality assurance and control. Her background includes both extensive "hands on" experience and corporate level strategy activities from partnering and due diligence to serving as an expert witness in the drug development process.

Dr. Danielson manages and serves as president of her own regulatory and clinical consulting firm, Regulatory Advantage LLC based in Tucson, Arizona. Prior industry experience includes senior positions as Director of Regulatory Compliance and Quality Assurance for ALZA Corporation, Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for Biocryst Pharmaceuticals, Vice President for Regulatory, Quality, and Facilities for Viral Antigens, Head of Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance for Colgate, Senior Vice President for Clinical and Regulatory Affairs for ImaRx, and Senior Vice President of Regulatory Affairs for MediQuest Therapeutics. She has an MS in Biology from Samford University and a Doctorate in Public Health from the University of Alabama.

Dr. Danielson previously served on the Board of Directors for the Arizona Biotechnology Organization, is currently on the Advisory Board for the Clinical

Research Program at Pima College and is an adjunct professor in clinical and regulatory affairs. Dr. Danielson serves as instructor and chairperson for the editorial board for the Drug Information Association's Regulatory Affairs training courses for Drugs and Biologics. She was also the recipient of DIA's 2011 award for contribution to Science and Medicine.

Warren Sherman, MD

Dr. Sherman is the Director of Cardiac Cell-Based Endovascular Therapies at Columbia University Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian Hospital in New York and Associate Professor in Clinical medicine at Columbia University. He earned his Bachelor of Science (Life Sciences) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Medical Doctorate at the State University of New York, Upstate Medical Center. Following a Medicine Residency at the University of Rochester and Fellowship in Cardiovascular Diseases at Oregon Health Sciences University, he joined the faculty of Mount Sinai Hospital in 1983 to investigate the role of thrombolytics ("clotbusters") in patients with myocardial infarction (heart attack). In 1989 he established the Interventional Cardiology Program at Beth Israel Medical Center, in NYC, widely recognized as a center of excellence in patient care and fellowship training. In 1998 he began exploring methods by which the heart muscle could be strengthened following chronic injury, focusing on techniques for injecting adult stem cells into the heart. Working with investigators in Europe, in 2001 he performed the first-in-human catheter-based injection of stem cells in a patient with a heart failure, later initiating the first study in the US of muscle stem cells in patients poor myocardial function.

Dr. Sherman has remained a leader in the field of regenerative cardiovascular diseases, having moved to Columbia University Medical Center in 2005. As Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of Stem Cell Research and Regenerative Medicine in the Center for Interventional Vascular Therapy, his principal interests are in late translational and clinical investigation of cell-based therapies. He has led studies of cellular biologics and delivery methods, authoring numerous publications in the field and consultant to the National Institutes of Health, Production Assistance for Cellular Therapies (PACT), the Canadian government's National Centres of Excellence (Stem Cell Network) and for industry. He is the Chair of the Cardiovascular Committee of the International Society of Cellular Therapy (ISCT). As an educator, he retains a passion for clinical teaching and for scientific exploration, lecturing widely on stem cell repair and regenerative medicine. Through the Cardiovascular Research Foundation, he directs the Annual International Conference on Cell Therapy for Cardiovascular Diseases (IC3D). Now in its ninth year, it brings together global leaders in cardiovascular repair for comprehensive, scientific and strategic exchange. Additionally, he remains active in the care of patients with cardiac disease.