M E M O R A N D U M

January 15, 2014

From: Alan Trounson, President, Patricia Olson, Executive Director for Scientific Activities and Michael Yaffe, Associate Director for Research Activities
To: Application Review Subcommittee, Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC)
Subject: Staff Recommendations re Tier 1 applications submitted under RFA 12-06, Stem Cell Genomics Centers of Excellence Awards

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In accordance with Section 7, Article V of the Bylaws of the Scientific and Medical Research Working Group and Section 6, Article VI of the Board's bylaws, both as amended on 3/19/13; the President and the scientific staff, following internal review and consideration would like the Application Review Subcommittee to consider the following.

Recommendation:

Staff Recommends funding of only the top rated application (GC1R-6673), together with the associated (and top rated) Data Coordination and Management component. Furthermore, staff recommends removal of Center Initiated Project #3, as recommended by the Grants Working Group (GWG), and retention of Center Initiated Project #2, as recommended by the GWG Minority Report. Total requested funds for this award are $33,327,072.

Rationale:

The intention of this RFA is to support one or two Genomics Center Awards for a total budget of up to $40 million. Scores assigned by the GWG placed four of the applications in Tier 1, reflecting the quality of these proposals. Application GC1R-6673 was rated highest for overall program and also, separately, highest rated for the Data Coordination and Management component. Notably, the proposed program involves leading genomics scientists and participation of a significant number of outstanding California institutions with broad geographical distribution.

Staff supports the retention of Center Initiated Project #2, as recommended by the GWG Minority Report, because of the tremendous importance and potential of single-cell genomics approaches to critically advance stem cell biology and biomedicine. Additionally,

this project combines world-leading expertise in single cell technology, cancer biology and computational modeling that will contribute substantially to an understanding of cellular subpopulations and stem cell heterogeneity. Staff views this project as an integral component of a cutting-edge stem cell genomics center.

The proposed application, with retention of Center Initiated Project #2 and removal of Center Initiated Project #3, will fulfill all of the aims of the RFA and provide an excellent, responsive and comprehensive genomics resource for California stem cell researchers.