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Maria Bonneville
Executive Director
Independent Citizens Oversight committee (ICOC)

Ref. CIRM Basic Biology V Application
RB5-07184: Exosomes as a novel form of cell-cell communication for neuronal homeostasis

Dear ICOC board members,

It is my pleasure to announce that my group was recently awarded with an R01 grant from the NIH, through the highly competitive EUREKA mechanism, to explore exosomes as a novel form of cell-cell communication *in vivo*. This support from NIH will leverage a potential BBV award to my group to study exosomes in an *in vitro* system. Thus, not only we will be performing complementary experiments but also addressing some of the reviewer's concerns regarding the lack of *in vivo* data in our CIRM application.

The EUREKA (Exceptional Unconventional Research Enabling Knowledge Acceleration) was awarded to exceptionally novel hypotheses and/or remarkably difficult problems in neuroscience and disorders of the nervous system. The referee's echoed CIRM' reviewers saying that our proposal is indeed "innovative, with the potential to solve an important problem and open new area for investigation that would benefit several neurological and psychiatric disorders".

We hope the ICOC will be as excited as we are and recognize this unique opportunity to include this type of research in CIRM's portfolio.

Sincerely,

Alysson Renato Muotri, Ph.D.