

Dear Fellow Board Members,

I believe that the Board needs more time to process the qualities it needs in a Chair as we move forward to the next crucial phase. We also need to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of this Board, as validated by the positive review of the External Advisory Panel's report. We cannot let our collective success be overshadowed by a leadership debate.

I initially stepped aside when Dr. Alan Bernstein's candidacy became apparent. The Mission and funding the best science have always been my priority. We owe nothing less to patients and the taxpayers of California.

As I'm sure is true for many of you, I am saddened by the recent press and blog stories that have compromised our collective hard work, history and Mission. Further, these stories embolden our opponents who seek to stop stem cell research on the federal and state level. We must stand together to confront the challenges that lie ahead.

With the above in mind, I will withdraw my candidacy for Chair and support Bob Klein for Chair. I plan to stand only for election as your next Vice Chair at our December 15, 2010 meeting. I am humbled by the nomination of my dear friends State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and State Controller John Chiang. They are dedicated, loyal public servants and California is fortunate to have them. I am taking Bob Klein at his word that he will serve only for a limited transition period. That will give time for our Governance Subcommittee, under the leadership of Sherry Lansing, to determine the qualities we need in our next Chair and to report its assessment to the full Board for further discussions and deliberations.

Also, I am supporting the candidacy of my good friend Duane Roth to continue as our bylaws Vice Chair, if he so chooses.

As you know, under Bagley-Keene, I must refrain from discussing this with you outside of a noticed meeting, but I look forward to presenting my candidacy for Vice Chair and answering any questions you have at the December 15th meeting.

Lastly, I want to thank each of you for your support and guidance – it is deeply appreciated.

I look forward to seeing you all on December 15, 2010.

Art Torres