



Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Re: NIH Clinical Center

Dear CIRM Grantee:

CIRM wants to make you aware of a Request for Information (RFI) issued by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) soliciting input on partnerships between Extramural and NIH Intramural Investigators utilizing the NIH Clinical Center. I hope your institution will consider responding to this RFI.

The RFI comes in response to a December 2010 Congressionally-mandated Scientific Management Review Board report which recognized that allowing “...*qualified external investigators to conduct research at the Clinical Center could yield tremendous benefits to the clinical research enterprise overall.*” CIRM agrees with this perspective: Facilitating the ability of California stem cell researchers to work with their counterparts at NIH was the impetus for CIRM entering a collaborative Memoranda of Understanding with the NIH earlier this year. The Clinical Center, in particular, has many sophisticated resources that could be productively employed in stem cell research.

The RFI itself can be found at: <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-12-005.html>. It provides information concerning the Clinical Center resources and then poses four specific questions:

1. How would partnering with NIH intramural investigators and use of the NIH Clinical Center resources help advance your research project or enhance your science?
2. What special Clinical Center resources would you be most interested in using and why?
3. What current barriers or challenges exist for you in accessing the Clinical Center or in partnering with the NIH intramural community?; and
4. What actions should the NIH and Clinical Center consider taking to address these challenges or to make it more feasible for you to access the Clinical Center and NIH intramural investigators? If you have ever utilized the Clinical Center or partnered with an intramural program at the Clinical

Responses must be submitted by December 1, 2012.

Please submit any information to the NIH that you think will be useful. If possible, please provide CIRM with a copy of the information you provide. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy J. Koch (nkoch@cirm.ca.gov) or Ellen Feigal (efeigal@cirm.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Alan Trounson

President