

**CIRM CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY for
GRANTS REVIEW WORKING GROUP Members**

To be successful, the CIRM research program, which is funded by the taxpayers of California, must make awards in a way that is perceived to be open, fair and free from bias. Consistent with this aim, the evaluation of grants by the Grants Review Working Group must be free both from real and apparent conflicts of interest. The CIRM is committed to strong and effective conflict of interest policies. The conflict of interest policy for members of the Grants Review Working Group is closely modeled on the policies of NIH and the California Breast Cancer Research Program.

A conflict of interest exists when a Working Group member has a real or apparent interest in the outcome of an application such that the member is in a position to gain financially, professionally or personally from either a positive or negative evaluation of the grant proposal.

Financial:

A reviewer has a financial conflict of interest if:

- (1) Either the reviewer or a close family member (parent, spouse, sibling, child, domestic partner) is an employee of either the institution or the Principal Investigator on an application.
- (2) The reviewer is under active consideration for a faculty or administrative position at an applicant institution.
- (3) A reviewer stands to receive a financial benefit of any amount from an application under review.
- (4) A reviewer has received or could receive a financial benefit of any type from an applicant institution unrelated to the proposal, of over \$5,000 per year. This total includes honoraria, fees, stock and other benefits. It also includes current stock holdings.

Professional:

A reviewer has a professional conflict of interest if:

- (1) A person listed on the grant application as Principal Investigator or someone who receives salary from the grant is a professional associate, such as a former student or post-doctoral fellow, or someone with whom the reviewer has co-authored a publication within the last three years.
- (2) The reviewer and a primary member of the research team of an application are engaged in, or are planning to be engaged in, a collaboration.
- (3) An applicant is someone with whom the reviewer has had long-standing scientific differences or disagreements that are known to the professional community and could be perceived as affecting the reviewer's objectivity.

Personal:

A reviewer has a personal conflict of interest if:

- (1) A close family member or close personal friend is an applicant.
- (2) An applicant is someone with whom the reviewer has had long-standing personal differences.

A reviewer is required to report to the CIRM staff member any conflict of interest of which he or she is aware, including, but not limited to, those described above. Except under unusual circumstances, any member of the Grants Working Group who has a real or apparent conflict of interest with respect to an application may not review or vote on the application and must leave the room when that application is discussed. In exceptional cases, the President of the CIRM or a designee may decide that the need for special expertise of the reviewer outweighs any possible bias posed by a real or apparent conflict of interest.

All reviewers must sign a pre-review statement indicating any possible conflicts of interest that they have, and must also sign a post-review statement that they did not participate in the discussion or review of any application for which they might have a conflict of interest.

Definitions

1. *Applicant* includes both the investigators and the applicant institutions. (Following the NIH policy and based on the definition of grantee in the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act, multiple campuses of a statewide university are considered to be separate institutions.)
2. *CIRM* is the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
3. *Grant* means a grant, loan or guarantee.
4. *Grants Working Group* refers to the Scientific and Medical Research Funding Working Group
5. *Principal Investigator* is an individual designated by the grantee to direct the project or activity being supported by the grant. He or she is responsible and accountable to the grantee and the CIRM for the proper conduct of the project or activity.
6. *Working Group* means any of three advisory bodies to the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC), the governing body of the CIRM. Working groups shall forward their recommendations to the ICOC for it to consider in making its decisions on applications for research and facility grants and loan awards and adopting regulatory standards.

I understand the conflict of interest policies of the CIRM and will report any and all conflicts of interest that I have with respect to applications submitted to the Grants Review Working Group.

Signature: _____ Date: _____