



GAVIN NEWSOM
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

May 23, 2011

Mr. Robert Klein
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
210 King Street
San Francisco, CA 94 107

Dear Mr. Klein,

As you approach your departure from the chairmanship of the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), I want to thank you for your service, dedication and vision. If not for your leadership, CIRM would never have come to fruition. Your experience, institutional knowledge and passion are irreplaceable, which makes the appointment of your successor one of the most important choices since the voters approved Proposition 71 in 2004.

CIRM is at a crossroads. The next few years will define the long-term viability and success of the Institute. Each breakthrough by CIRM-supported researchers, even those of the smallest scale, moves the medical community closer to bringing therapies, treatments and cures to the world.

The next chair of the ICOC must share your passion for stem cell research, be able to lead the ICOC and be a credible advocate ensuring the trust and best interest of the people of California are protected. Additionally, and no less importantly, your replacement must be able to leverage your successes with those in the private sector who will become increasingly important in funding future research, developing clinical trials and ultimately, delivering cures to the myriad of diseases being researched by CIRM-supported projects.

In order to meet my responsibility to nominate your replacement as outlined in Health and Safety Code section 125290.20(6), I have conducted a comprehensive review of candidates to succeed you. I have discussed the needs of CIRM and the ICOC with current members of the Board, my fellow nominators and a number of industry experts. Finally, I personally interviewed the top candidates.

In accordance with Health and Safety Code section 125290.20(6), I nominate Dr. Jonathan Thomas to the ICOC.

The members of the ICOC understand the needs of CIRM and what it will take to lead the ICOC into this new era. I look forward to working with whomever they choose as their next leader.

Should you or the members of the ICOC have any questions about my nominees, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gavin Newsom', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gavin Newsom
Lieutenant Governor