

Concept Proposal: RFA for CIRM New Cell Lines Awards

(Agenda Item #9)

Concept Proposal: RFA for New Cell Lines Awards

Need new pluripotent human stem cell lines for:

- Greater genetic diversity
- Disease-specific lines for cellular models of disease and for drug discovery
- Clinical grade lines
- Optimal lines for specific, desired phenotypes

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New methods being developed for hESCs:

- Without exposure to animal products
- Defined growth conditions: media, factors, substrates, feeders
- Following Good Manufacturing Practices
- PGD, blastomeres
- SCNT

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Novel sources and protocols for generating pluripotent human cell lines:

- Re-programming/De-differentiation
- Cybrids (fusion of hESCs with adult cells)
- Other innovative methods

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- Support MD and PhD scientists conducting research at institutions in California
- Support full spectrum of human pluripotent stem cell types and experimental approaches

Two types of awards:

- hESCs generated from cells obtained from early, preimplantation embryos (<12 days)
- Human pluripotent stem cells starting from other sources

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- Each institution may submit up to 4 applications; 2 of each type.
- Fund 8 grants of each type. Each is a 3-year grant; project cost of up to \$300,000 per year.
- Total cost of this program: \$25 million.

Draft Timetable:

RFA release	Fall 2007
Review of Applications	Winter 2007 - 2008
ICOC Approval for Funding	Spring 2008

		PhD	MD	MD, PhD	
	Training Grants: Program Directors	11	4	1	
	Leon J. Thal SEED Grants: Principal Investigators	47	9	19	
	Comprehensive Research Grants: Principal Investigators	19	7	5	
	Shared Research Laboratories: Program Directors	12	3	1	

The RFA states:

“Principal Investigators (PIs) may be either senior or junior faculty and must be full-time employees of the grantee organization.”

To serve as a Principal Investigator on a CIRM SEED Grant or Comprehensive Research Grant, the applicant must meet the following criteria at the time that the application is received by CIRM:

He/she must be an independent investigator with a full-time, faculty-level position at the applicant institution.

He/she must be located on-site at the applicant institution.

He/she must have his/her own dedicated laboratory to conduct the proposed research at the applicant institution.