

Study Group Working Notes #6: Diversity

Study Group: NA

Background: There is agreement in principle among members of the Standards Working Group that diversity of cell lines is essential. In addition, California is the nation's most ethnically diverse state, so stem cell research intended to serve the people of California should reflect this diversity.

Options:

Some commentators have suggested CIRM establish *diversity criteria* for distribution of funds and that *diversity is embodied in the policies and practices of the Institute*.

Current Standards:

No directly applicable state or Federal standards were identified. NIH has targeted increased diversity in some training programs. CIRM has also addressed this issue in its grants program. For example, Rfa 05-01: CIRM Training Program included the following language:

Because of the diversity of the California population, CIRM is particularly interested in training a diverse pool of investigators. We encourage institutions to make special efforts, consistent with the law, to recruit and retain individuals from many backgrounds, including under-represented minorities, as trainees and as mentors.

Recommendation and/or Proposed Language:

It appears the diversity issue can best be addressed through the grants process as opposed to regulation. The Standards Working Group could develop a declaration of intent.

In addition, the ICOC finds and declares that:

- (a) CIRM-funded research is intended to benefit all citizens of California.*
- (b) California is an ethnically diverse state.*
- (c) Certain diseases may be more prevalent among specific communities.*
- (d) For CIRM-funded research to benefit all citizens, stem cell research should be pursued in a manner that supports the development of therapies for diverse populations.*