

Research Leadership Awards Program Extension

Proposal

Request ICOC approval for an extension of the Research Leadership Awards Program for one additional application round and up to four additional awards.

Overview

- Purpose: to provide opportunities for the recruitment to California and support of additional outstanding research leaders in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine
- Eligibility: all California universities, medical centers, or non-profit research organizations that do not have a confirmed CIRM Research Leadership Award (or a pending award) as of November 1, 2013. Institutions in negotiation with or in the process of recruiting a candidate already approved by the ICOC would not be eligible to apply
- Changes from established program:
 - Change in duration of award from six to five years
 - Disallow No-Cost-Extension (NCE) at end of award period
- Total program cost: up to \$23 million

Rationale

The CIRM Research Leadership Awards program has already led to the recruitment to California of three outstanding scientists and research leaders, Robert Weschler-Reya, Peter Coffey and Andrew McMahon. These individuals have re-established robust research programs, relocated and hired research personnel, brought additional outside funding into California and are serving as catalysts for further growth and productivity of the regenerative medicine programs at their respective institutions. The recruitments and/or relocations of six additional scientists recently approved by the ICOC for Leadership Awards are actively in progress.

A number of California institutions have not yet been able to secure a confirmed Research Leadership award but would benefit greatly from the recruitment of emerging or established leaders in stem cell biology. Participation in the CIRM program could bring additional, exceptional researchers to California, strengthen and synergize with other efforts to build up local sustained research communities in stem cell biology and medicine and provide ongoing leadership at the cutting

edge of California regenerative medicine. The proposed extension would expand this opportunity to include additional California universities and research institutes.

Provisional Timeline

Applications Due	January	2014
GWG Review	March/April	2014
ICOC Approval	May	2014