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## M E M O R A N D U M

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**September 4, 2015**

**From:** Patricia Olson, Ph.D. for the Discovery & Translation team  
**To:** Science Subcommittee of the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC)  
**Subject:** Proposed Updates to the Discovery and Translation (D&T) Concept and Upcoming Program Announcements

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### **Background**

On July 23, 2015, the CIRM Discovery and Translation team recommended and the ICOC approved concept plans for Discovery (PA15-07, 15-08 and 15-09) and Translation Program (PA 15-10, 15-11, 15-12 and 15-13) awards. After further consideration of the concept plans, the CIRM team proposes to make two modifications, described below.

### **Proposed Changes:**

**1. Change the loan election option.** Under the Translation Program concept plan approved by the Board in July, an applicant who received an award for pre-clinical development for a therapeutic (PA 15-10), a diagnostic (PA 15-11), or a device (PA 15-12) could elect to treat the award as a loan within the earlier of a specified period or a regulatory submission for marketing. Since the Board approved the concept plan, the CIRM team has continued to refine the loan election policy for Clinical Program awards. In order to avoid the complexity associated with establishing repayment terms for diagnostics and devices, we propose to offer the loan option only to therapeutic development awardees under terms to be specified in the Discovery and Translation Program Grants Administration Policy, which will be presented to the Board for consideration later this Fall.

**2. Eliminate Specificity in the Concept Plans Regarding Application Schedule and Deadlines.** The Translation and Discovery Program concept plans approved by the Board in July included details ("Schedule and Deadlines") regarding the timing and order of the submission of applications for various programs announcements that fall under the Translation and Discovery Programs. In order for CIRM to operate efficiently and to respond to changing circumstances and needs, CIRM must be nimble and flexible. To ensure that the CIRM team has the ability to make adjustments to the program schedule to meet these needs, we propose to eliminate the specificity in the

Translation and Discovery Program concept plans regarding the schedule for the submission of applications in response to program announcements issued under these programs.

**Recommendation: Approve proposed amendments to the Translation and Discovery Program concept plans to: (1) offer an option only to early therapeutic development awardees to treat their award as a loan under terms to be presented to the Board as part of the Discovery and Translation Program Grant Administration Policy; and (2) eliminate the specificity detailed in the concept plans regarding the schedule for submission of applications in response to program announcements issued under these programs.**