CIRM
CALIFORNIA'S STEM CELL AGENCY

TO: Members of the Science Subcommittee of the ICOC

FROM: C. Scott Tocher, Deputy General Counsel

DATE: September 2, 2016

RE: Research Program Budget Policy and Process

Executive Summary

The ICOC determines on an annual basis the appropriate funding level for research programs throughout the agency's portfolio. Funding decisions on individual applications within respective programs are made by the Application Review Subcommittee of the Board. To address the process by which the Board and Application Review Subcommittee make budget allocation and funding decisions within those allocations, the following process is proposed:

RESEARCH PROGRAM BUDGET POLICY AND PROCESS

1.   On an annual basis, CIRM will present for the Board's consideration a calendar-year budget for each of its on-going research programs (CONF, DISC, TRAN AND CLIN).

2.   Any funds allocated to a program for a particular calendar year that are not awarded by the Application Review Subcommittee (i.e., approved for funding) in that calendar year will revert to general research funding bucket to be re-allocated as part of the Board's consideration of research budgets for subsequent calendar years.

3.   The calendar-year budget for a particular program includes all awards approved for funding by the Application Review Subcommittee for that program during that calendar year.

4.   The proposed budget for each program will specify the proposed number of opportunities to submit applications (i.e., cycles) for that program during the calendar year (e.g., 12 CLIN cycles for 2017; 4 CONF (Mechanism 1) cycles for 2017).

5.   When the total dollar amount of requested funds in applications that are recommended for funding exceeds the funds available in the calendar-year

budget, or when a motion to move an application into the fundable category would result in the total dollar amount of requested funds in fundable applications exceeding the calendar-year budget, then members with an interest in an application in the fundable category shall be required to recuse themselves from participating until such time as the member no longer has an interest, per the process set forth below:

- To address the potential for conflicts arising from a calendar-year budget cap, the Application Review Subcommittee will first consider motions to add applications to, or remove applications from, the fundable category. A member with an interest in an application that is the subject of a motion will be prohibited from participating in the discussion and vote on the motion. However, members who have an interest in another application for funding in the same cycle will be permitted to participate in the discussion and vote on the motion. Once all such motions are exhausted, the CIRM team will calculate whether the total amount of funding is at or below the budget or above it.

- If the total dollar amount of applications in the fundable category is at or below the calendar-year budget, then the Application Review Subcommittee may proceed with a motion to approve the applications in the fundable category and not to approve the remaining applications. Members with an interest in any application will be asked to vote yes or no on the motion, except with respect to those applications in which they have an interest.

- If the total dollar amount of applications in the fundable category is above the calendar-year budget, then members who do not have an interest in any applications in the fundable category may make motions to remove applications from the fundable category. A member who has an interest in any application in the fundable category may not participate in any motion to remove an application from the fundable category as long as the application in which the member has an interest remains in the fundable category. The Application Review Subcommittee shall consider such motions until the total dollar amount of applications in the fundable category is at or below the calendar-year budget.

Requested Action: CIRM requests the Science Subcommittee recommend the ICOC approve this policy governing the research program budget process.