



THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
Office of the Chairman

December 2, 2016

Members of the ICOC:

It is hard to believe that it has already been 5 1/2 years since I took over as Chairman of CIRM from Bob Klein in June of 2011. It has been a great privilege to work with all of you and our various stakeholders during that time. We've made tremendous progress as a team, work that has funded the highest quality work across the research spectrum. Having said that, there is still a great deal of work to be done to fully realize the promise of Proposition 71. This month marks the end of my initial term as Chair. I am writing to ask that you renew my term so that together we may continue our inexorable march towards fulfilling CIRM's mission of bringing therapies to patients with unmet medical needs.

By way of review of the past 5 1/2 years, I would break down my work as follows:

1. **Oversight.** I have led the Board in exercising its responsibility to oversee CIRM operations. In leading this oversight function, I have left operations to the President and his Team.
- 2.. **ICOC Meeting Structure.** Starting with my first meeting, I increased meeting efficiency while still giving everyone full opportunity to participate (subject to conflict constraints).
3. **Relations with the Board.** Throughout my term, I have enjoyed a strong relationship with all members of the Board. I have kept the Board informed of key matters through frequent updates, meetings, calls, etc.
4. **Relations with the President.** From Day One, I sought to strengthen the relationship with the Office of the President and with the President himself. Today, Randy and I enjoy a highly collaborative and productive relationship.
5. **Key Hires.** Once Alan announced that he would be stepping down, I led the search for a new President. I specifically identified Randy as a candidate and encouraged him to apply for the position. His work in the past 2 1/2 years speaks for itself. Second, through Art's introduction and advice in August 2011, I hired Maria as Executive Director to the Board to succeed Melissa King. She has been a crucial member of the CIRM Team on many fronts and a huge help to me personally. Finally, based on the observed need to improve our communications and patient involvement, I created the position of Senior Director Public Communications & Patient Advocate Outreach. I oversaw the search for that position, which ended when we hired Kevin McCormack in April of 2012.
6. **Crisis Management.** In December 2012, we received the report on CIRM from the Institutes of Medicine ("IOM"). Though the IOM praised our research funding program in the highest terms, their report required an immediate and comprehensive response to address the issues identified as needing improvement. Through many conversations with Art, Maria, and James over the next month, I developed a plan to deal with each issue in turn. I led a five hour special Board meeting where we discussed and unanimously approved that plan. Passage of the plan proved a turning point with the press statewide, which applauded our quick, decisive, and comprehensive response.
7. **Bond Funding.** With the considerable help of Lynn Harwell, Amy Lewis, and Chila Silva-Martin, I have managed our bond funding with the Department of Finance in the Governor's office and the State Treasurer. Including the one cycle where the Governor required all State agencies to spend down their reserves before issuing new bonds, we have enjoyed uninterrupted funding to meet 100% of our needs.

8. **Other Relationships in Sacramento.** Beyond the just-named offices, we have enjoyed great relations with all relevant parties in Sacramento. While Art has masterfully led this effort, Maria and I have been in close contact as well with the offices of the Constitutional Officers to keep them posted on CIRM's progress. For example, we have worked closely with the State Controller to facilitate successful reviews by his/her Citizens Financial Accountability Oversight Committee. As a summary statement, CIRM's relations with Sacramento have never been better.

9. **CIRM Ambassador.** I have spent a great deal of time representing CIRM before many groups, including ISSCR, the World Stem Cell Summit, delegations from other countries (Poland, Israel), BIO, Grantee conferences and symposia, the Meetings on the Mesa, Milken Global Conferences and Partnering for Cures, GE Regen Med Workshop, high school and college student and faculty meetings regarding advancements in science, town halls, Rotary events, the World Alliance Forum, Bridges and Sparks conferences and the Cedars Sinai PhD graduation in June 2015 (where I gave the Commencement address).

10. **ATP3 Recruiting.** I initiated numerous meetings to educate potential partners about ATP3, including senior officials from major stakeholder groups (big Pharma, big Biotech, Venture Capital life science firms and biotech entrepreneurs). Randy, Neil Littman, Maria Millan and I conducted those meetings (along with others) over the past 15 months.

11. **Fundraising.** CIRM currently stands to run out of funds in 2020. Bob has already announced that he intends to put a measure on the November 2018 ballot. We keep him updated on CIRM's progress so that his effort is fully informed. In addition, I, with the help of Amy Lewis and Maria, initiated discussions with a number of philanthropists and Foundations interested in medical research who could be potential sources of funds to keep CIRM going in the event Bob's measure is not successful. Also, if the 2018 measure doesn't pass, we will need approximately \$20 million to cover administrative costs between 2020-23 to wind down CIRM's existing projects. I have raised a substantial portion of contingent funds to meet that obligation and am in discussions for the balance.

Going forward, among other things, I would plan to:

12. **Continue work of first term** (Oversight, Preserving Bond Funding, Sustainability, Interfacing with Major Stakeholder Groups, Admin Funds, Relations with Sacramento, Ambassadorial efforts, etc.). These tasks will collectively take the majority of my time.

13. **Strategic Plan.** Work with Randy and the Team to implement the many aspects of our current five year Strategic Plan.

14. **Partnering.** Beyond ATP3, I will work with Neil to use our considerable industry connections to find partners to take a number of our funded projects on to commercialization.

15. **Hunting.** I will work with the Therapeutics Team to source new Clinical Trials for CIRM funding.

I have informed all of our Constitutional Officers that I would like to continue on as CIRM Chairman. Art has done the same with respect to his role as Vice Chairman. Art and I have enjoyed a strong and effective relationship since I started at CIRM and hope to have the opportunity to continue working together going forward. I ask now for your support so that we may seamlessly continue our collective effort. Thank you as always for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Thomas