

UCSF Helen Diller Family
Comprehensive
Cancer Center

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Maria Bonneville (mbonneville@cirm.ca.gov)
Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC)
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1650 Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Letter of support for CIRM TRAN1-11259 (Karin Gaensler P.I.)

Dear Members of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)
Governing Board and Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC),

As the President of the Helen Diller Family Comprehensive Cancer Center (HDFCCC) and Senior Vice President for Cancer Services, UCSF Health, I am writing to strongly support CIRM funding of the TRAN1-11259 application with Dr. Karin Gaensler M.D., Professor of Medicine, Division of Hematology/Oncology, and member of the HDFCCC as Principal Investigator.

The novel vaccine approach developed by Dr. Gaensler and her team addresses an unmet need in the treatment of acute myelogenous leukemia. Dr. Gaensler has generated impressive proof of concept data for her approach both in aggressive murine leukemia models and in studies with primary human AML and autologous human effectors.

At the HCFCCC and in the broader UCSF community, major initiatives have been undertaken in the area of cancer immunotherapy. These include a large number of investigators in the basic sciences and include members of the Parker Institute and the newly formed ImmunoX consortium that will enable broader collaborations, and provide a number of cutting edge resources to investigators. In addition, the Cancer Immunotherapy Program (CIP) includes both basic sciences and clinical investigators who are launching an increasing number of clinical immunotherapy trials. Thus, the facilities, faculty, and environment at UCSF and the HDFCCC provide an ideal environment for the development and implementation of novel immunotherapeutic approaches targeting cancer stem cells.

Given the broad expertise of Dr. Gaensler and her collaborative team, meeting the milestones proposed and the future development of a Phase 1 trial are highly achievable and fill an important niche in the research portfolio at the HDFCCC.



Further, the recent establishment of the UC Hematological Malignancies Consortium at UCSF, UCLA, UCSD, UC Irvine, and UC Davis, now enables the design and implementation of clinical trials developed at each of these institutions to be initiated statewide, thus serving citizens throughout California.

As President of the HDFCCC, I provide my full and unequivocal support for the development of this ground-breaking vaccine approach which may well have considerable lessons for the treatment of other cancers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan Ashworth".

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