

# SOMETHING BETTER THAN HOPE

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**CIRM**  
CALIFORNIA / STEM CELL AGENCY

# CIRM Quest Program

## Objective

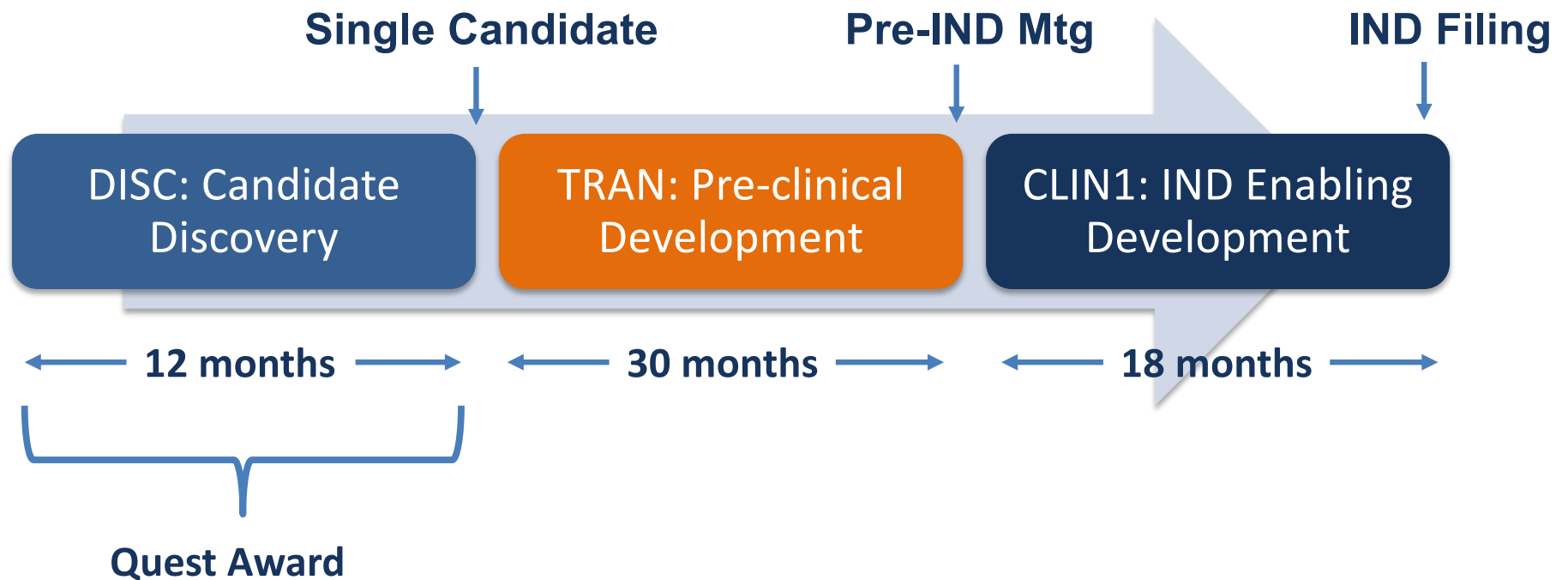
The Quest Program will promote the discovery of promising new stem cell-based technologies that could be translated to enable broad use and ultimately, improve patient care.

Projects funded through the Quest Awards should propose technology that is uniquely enabled by human stem/progenitor cells or directly reprogrammed cells, or uniquely enabling for the advancement of stem cell-based therapies.

# What are we looking for?

- We are looking for projects with the capability to develop a novel candidate product that will be ready for translational studies within one year and up to \$250,000.
- The product type (i.e., therapeutic, diagnostic, medical device, or tool) determines the specific outcomes expected and readiness for translational studies.
  - Single therapeutic candidate with disease-modifying activity
  - Prototype with proof of concept

# Accelerating Therapeutic Development



# Review Criteria

1. Does the project hold the necessary significance and potential for impact? (i.e., what value does it offer; is it worth doing?)
2. Is the rationale sound? (i.e., does it make sense?)
3. Is the project well planned and designed?
4. Is the project feasible? (i.e., can they do it?)

# Addressing Needs of the Underserved

- Many diseases have a disproportionate impact on minority and underserved communities in California and the nation.
- CIRM clinical trial (CLIN2) projects are already required to include a plan for outreach and inclusion of minority and underserved populations in their studies.
- CIRM is asking all other applicants how their overall study plan and design has considered the disproportional impact of the targeted disease on underserved populations and the limitations, advantages and/or challenges of the proposed study in developing a product or tool that will broadly serve all populations.

# Scoring System

- **Score of “85-100”**

*Recommended for funding, if funds are available*

- **Score of “1-84”**

*Not recommended for funding*

Applications are scored by all scientific members of the GWG with no conflict.

# GWG Recommendations

	Number of Apps	Total Applicant Request
<b>Recommended for funding</b> Score 85-100	10	\$2,498,963
<b>Not recommended for funding</b> Score 1-84	22	

**CIRM Team Recommendation:** Fund all projects (10) with a score of 85 or greater.

For each award, the final award amount shall not exceed the amount approved by the ICOC Application Review Subcommittee and may be reduced contingent on CIRM's assessment of allowable costs and activities.