# Nominations for Appointment to the Grants Working Group (GWG)

**NEW APPOINTMENTS**

**Zoe Arvanitakis, MD, MS**
**Professor, Rush Medical College of Rush University**

Referral: Dr. Arvanitakis was identified by the Review team's Senior Science Officer based on assessment of expertise through publications.

Expertise Relevance to CIRM GWG: Dr. Arvanitakis's expertise in neuroscience will be invaluable in reviewing Discovery to Clinical stage program awards.

Prior Service in CIRM Reviews: Dr. Arvanitakis has served as a specialist reviewer for the Discovery program.

Bio:
Dr. Zoe Arvanitakis is the Medical Director of the Rush Memory Clinic at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center (RADC), and Professor and Section Head (Cognitive Neuroscience) in the Department of Neurological Sciences at Rush University Medical Center (RUMC), Rush University System for Health (RUSH) in Chicago. A board-certified neurologist, she furthered her education with a behavioral neurology/dementia fellowship (Mayo Clinic) and a Master of Science (MS) in Clinical Research with concentration in Epidemiology (Graduate College, RUMC). She more recently completed an Executive MBA program, with specialization in strategic leadership (Quantic). She has professional expertise, two decades of experience and international recognition, which span the three medical academic pillars, specifically of: 1) research on the aging human brain, and cognitive dysfunction and dementia in particular, with a focus on translational and clinical research including biologic mechanisms of disease and clinical trials; 2) education and mentoring in neuroscience and biomedical research, including of trainees and junior faculty; and 3) clinical care as a cognitive/dementia subspecialist in neurology, for a range of memory and cognitive disorders. Further, Dr. Arvanitakis also has more than a decade of experience as an administrative leader in a complex and rapidly changing health care environment, including as a leader of NIH-funded national collaborations, a departmental section head, vice chair and acting chair, medical director and university leader on several executive committees (Faculty Council, University Council, and others). By working towards a common vision of health, she continues to lead through the effective management of talent and mentoring of the faculty, trainees, and all team members, and with an intentional perspective of diversity, equity and inclusion. Dr. Arvanitakis builds upon an organizational excellence in clinical, education, and research programs, and upon national and international collaborations to move towards more equitable health for all. Her professional care goal is to continuously grow as a senior leader in a vibrant academic environment, while leveraging her deep and complementary skillsets, in order to contribute to building an even more impactful organization which improves the health and life of all patients and the communities served, from local to international.

Dr. Arvanitakis has shown success in obtaining competitive external grant funding and supporting others in getting funding, particularly from the NIH. She has six NIA and NINDS grants as PI, starting with a K23 and then five R01/RF1s, and is on several other NIH grants as Co-Investigator. She is also PI and Sub-I on clinical trial research studies, including investigator-initiated studies (e.g., lifestyle modifications for the prevention of cognitive decline; novel phase 1 gene therapy studies for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease). National leadership is further demonstrated by being a chartered member on an NIH study section, a Specialty Chief Editor for a dementia journal, and serving on External Advisory Boards. Furthermore, she has significant experience in mentoring of junior faculty, including on NIH grant applications and papers, and of trainees including on oral presentations. Her work has been recognized by receiving a University-wide award for excellence in mentoring in research. With over 100 scientific papers, mostly peer-reviewed and of original research, Dr. Arvanitakis has published in high impact general medical and general neurology journals including *JAMA, Neurology, Annals of Neurology, Archives of Neurology, Lancet*

*Neurology,* and *Nat Rev Neurol*. She has also published in high impact subspecialty journals, such as the *J Alzheimers Dis, Alzheimers Dement, Alzheimer Dis Assoc Disord, Stroke, Circulation, Diabetes Care, Neuroepidemiol, Brain Pathol, J Am Geriatr Soc, J Gerontol A Biol Sci Med Sci,* and *Neurobiol Aging*.

**Melissa Goddard, PhD**
**Independent Consultant**

Referral: Dr. Goddard was identified by the Review team's Senior Science Officer based on assessment of expertise through publications.

Expertise Relevance to CIRM GWG: Dr. Goddard's knowledge of tools and treatments for neuromuscular diseases will be invaluable in reviewing Discovery and Translational stage program awards.

Prior Service in CIRM Reviews: Dr. Goddard has served as a specialist reviewer for the Discovery and Translational programs.

Bio:
Dr. Melissa A. Goddard's research has largely involved the preclinical development of novel genetic treatments and gene therapies for inherited musculoskeletal diseases, including X-Linked Myotubular Myopathy and Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. In this capacity, she has characterized both rodent and canine models, established protocols for preclinical physiological assessment, contributed to an investigative new drug application, and mastered various in vivo, in vitro, molecular and histological techniques including stem cell isolation and reprogramming. Originally from the Caribbean island of Barbados, she has also consulted with the Government Ministries of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Council of Science and Technology in her native country on science awareness as well as a study of and screening for disease. In this role, she has been an advocate for STEM reform and, as a result, her interests currently include the intersection between policy and biomedical science, particularly in Small Island Developing States.

Dr. Goddard obtained her BSc in Molecular Biology and Genetics at the University of Guelph in Canada as a National Development Scholar of Barbados. She achieved her PhD in Physiology and Pharmacology from Wake Forest University in North Carolina, with doctoral work carried out both at the Wake Forest Institute of Regenerative Medicine as well as at the Institute for Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine at the University of Washington in Seattle due to a mid-degree move by her supervising PI. She completed her postdoctoral training in Paris France at L'Université Paris-Est Créteil, before moving on to Généthon in Evry, and is currently working as an independent researcher.

**Usha Menon, PhD, RN, FAAN**
**Senior Associate Vice President at University of South Florida Health**

Referral: Dr. Menon was identified by the Review team's Senior Science Officer based on assessment of expertise through publications.

Expertise Relevance to CIRM GWG: Dr. Menon's experience knowledge of inclusive trial enrollment and precision medicine will be invaluable in reviewing Clinical stage and Infrastructure program awards.

Prior Service in CIRM Reviews: N/A

Bio:
Dr. Usha Menon is Senior Associate Vice President at USF Health, and Dean and Professor at the University of South Florida College of Nursing. Her research focuses on culturally sensitive health promotion and illness prevention behaviors among under-represented populations focusing on cancer and diabetes with a strong emphasis on transdisciplinary implementation science. She has garnered over $60 million in total research funding with her team. Her leadership focus is on diversity of thought and scholarship in nursing as well as equity across faculty advancement. As dean, she is currently actively engaged in Florida in developing and implementing transformational industry and legislative partnerships in Florida to resolve the nursing and nurse faculty shortage. She has taught in programs across the nursing curriculum from the pre-licensure to doctoral courses, and mentors junior faculty across health sciences in medicine, microbiology, and pharmacy with a focus on translational research and health equity, and team science.

Dr. Menon is a recognized expert in behavior change theory, interventions, and health equity. An engaging and passionate public speaker, she is a frequent consultant and presenter to national and international groups of researchers, clinicians, and community members. She received her BS in Nursing from Lander University (1992), and her MSN (Adult Primary Care Nurse Practitioner; 1996) and her PhD in Nursing Science from Indiana University (2001).

**Maria Cristina Nostro, PhD**
**Senior Scientist at the McEwen Stem Cell Institute-University Health Network; Associate Professor at the University of Toronto**

Referral: Dr. Nostro was identified by the Review team's Senior Science Officer based on assessment of expertise through publications.

Expertise Relevance to CIRM GWG: Dr. Nostro's knowledge of Type I diabetes, beta cell replacement, directed differentiation and pancreas development will be invaluable in reviewing Discovery stage program awards.

Prior Service in CIRM Reviews: Dr. Nostro has served as a specialist reviewer for the Discovery program.

Bio:
Dr. Maria Cristina Nostro is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto and a Senior Scientist at the McEwen Stem Cell Institute, where she holds the Harry Rosen Chair in Diabetes Regenerative Medicine Research. Her lab focuses on generating functional pancreatic beta cells from hESCs and iPSCs via directed differentiation, with the ultimate goal of translating discoveries to potential treatments for people living with Type I Diabetes. Her group has defined critical pathways leading to the efficient generation and purification of stem cell-derived pancreatic progenitors.

Dr. Nostro received a Ph.D. in Biomolecular Sciences from The University of Manchester and trained as postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Gordon Keller's laboratory at Princess Margaret Cancer Research Centre prior to starting her independent career. Since 2015, Dr. Nostro has been leading a multi-investigator team aimed at developing novel transplantation approaches for Diabetes therapy. She has served as a member of the Banting and Best Diabetes Centre Research and Excellence Committee and since 2019 she has been a member of the Canadian Stem Cell Network Research Management Committee. She has served as a Scientific Consultant for Sigilon Therapeutics, has served as a grant reviewer for the NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the UK Medical Research Council and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and has served as a manuscript reviewer for journals such as *Cell Stem Cell, Diabetes,* and *Science Translational Medicine.*

**Travis Osterman, DO, MS, FAMIA**
**Director of Cancer Informatics, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center; Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University Medical Center**

Referral: Dr. Osterman was identified by the Review team's Senior Science Officer based on assessment of expertise through publications.

Expertise Relevance to CIRM GWG: Dr. Osterman's expertise in informatics and oncology will be invaluable in reviewing Clinical stage program awards and Infrastructure awards.

Prior Service in CIRM Reviews: Dr. Osterman has served as a specialist reviewer for the Discovery program.

Bio:
Dr. Travis Osterman is a practicing medical oncologist, informatician, Clinical Director in the Office of the Chief Health Information Officer at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), and Director of Cancer Clinical Informatics in the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center. He is board certified in internal medicine, medical oncology, and clinical informatics and completed a master of science in biomedical informatics at Vanderbilt University. He has dual faculty appointments at VUMC in the Department of Biomedical Informatics and the Department of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology.

Dr. Osterman's clinical interest within oncology is lung cancer. He leads the Clinical Cancer Informatics Innovation (C2I2) group whose research focuses on applying clinical informatics methods across the cancer care continuum. Current projects include identifying patients for lung cancer screening, automated clinical trial matching, and using

predictive analytics to anticipate toxicity to immunotherapy. As part of this work their team develops tools used for both research and to directly support patient care.

Nationally, Dr. Osterman is involved several national efforts to improve the availability of oncology-specific EHR data to support quality improvement across oncology practices. Dr. Osterman serves on the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) Electronic Health Record (EHR) workgroup and Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO) workgroup. The focus of these workgroups includes leveraging the EHR to promote innovation and to standardize best practices across cancer centers. He serves on the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) CancerLinQ Physician Advisory Board, the Minimum Common Oncology Data Elements (mCODE) workgroup, and the Member and Meeting Publications Editorial Board. Dr. Osterman also represents VUMC as a founding member on the Oncology Clinical Trial Information Commons (OCTIC) project which focuses on standardizing how data describing clinical trials are stored. He also serves on the Epic Adult Oncology Steering Board and chairs Epic's Beacon Community Operations Group.

**Marija-Magdalena Petrinovic, PhD**
**Lecturer (Assistant Professor), King's College London**

Referral: Dr. Petrinovic was identified by the Review team's Senior Science Officer based on assessment of expertise through publications.

Expertise Relevance to CIRM GWG: Dr. Petrinovic's knowledge of neurodevelopment circuits and disease mechanisms will be invaluable in reviewing Discovery stage program awards.

Prior Service in CIRM Reviews: Dr. Petrinovic has served as a specialist reviewer for the Discovery program.

Bio:
Dr. Marija Petrinovic is a Lecturer in Forensic and Neurodevelopmental Sciences at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN) at King's College London (KCL). Her primary research interests are in the study of disease mechanisms underlying neurodevelopmental disorders. Her group is studying aggression and related challenging behaviors such as irritability, impulsivity and intermittent explosivity, comorbid presentations in autism, ADHD, schizophrenia and psychopathy, working to identify the causal neurobiological mechanisms in order to develop effective treatments. She has expertise in rodent imaging and the development of optimized anaesthesia protocols for fMRI. At the Biomarker Research and Imaging for Neuroscience (BRAIN) Centre, she is currently involved in setting up novel imaging methods combining optogenetic and fMRI to study the effect of targeted activation and deactivation of specific neuronal populations on the brain function.

Dr. Petrinovic studied molecular biology at the University of Zagreb, Croatia, then received her PhD in Neuroscience at ETH Zurich where she trained with Martin Schwab to study regeneration after spinal cord injury. During that time, she was among the first to show that Nogo-A, an inhibitor of regeneration, plays an important role in nervous system development. She completed her postdoctoral training in neurodevelopment at Roche to learn how to move compounds from preclinical to clinical phases. In addition to her research pursuits, she is also the Gender Equality Champion at the IoPPN, a departmental representative in the IoPPN Diversity and Inclusion Self-Assessment Team, a member of the IoPPN Research and Innovation Committee, and a member of the KCL Academic Board. As a Translational Neuroscience Champion at the Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre, she works with others at the BRC to develop opportunities for translation development, and promote opportunities for collaboration between basic scientists and clinical researchers to work towards the goal of effectively translating scientific discoveries into tangible human benefit. She has served as a reviewer for journals such as *Cerebral Cortex, Brain structure & function, Psychopharmacology, Translational Psychiatry, Nature Scientific Reports, Molecular Biology Reports, Brain Research, the International Journal of Experimental Pathology,* and *Journal of Neurochemistry.*

**Rayne H. Rouce, MD**
**Associate Professor, Baylor College of Medicine**

Referral: Dr. Rouce was recommended by Malcom Brenner for experience her experience in establishing and work in these environments that expand existing capacities for delivering stem cell, gene therapies and other advanced treatment to patients.

Expertise Relevance to CIRM GWG: Dr. Rouce's expertise in clinical care and in conducting clinical, translational, and laboratory research will be invaluable in reviewing Discovery to Clinical stage program awards.

Prior Service in CIRM Reviews: Dr. Rouce has served as a specialist reviewer for the Discovery program.

Bio:
Dr. Rayne Rouce is Associate Professor of Hematology-Oncology in the Department of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. She is also Director of Community Engagement in the Office of Diversity, which offers a number of programs for underrepresented minority K-12, undergrad, graduate, and post-grad students interested in healthcare careers. She is a physician at Texas Children's Cancer Center where she is a member of the Bone Marrow Transplant/Stem Cell Transplant Program. Her clinical time is spent seeing leukemia and lymphoma patients while her research focuses on T cell immunotherapy, cell and gene therapy, leukemia and lymphoma.

Dr. Rayne Rouce received her MD from the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston, TX. She completed her internship and residency training in Pediatrics at UTMB. She remained at UTMB, later completing a Chief Residency there, where she also worked as a hospitalist and received an award for excellence in resident teaching. Dr. Rouce then relocated to Houston where she completed the Fellowship Program in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at Texas Children's Cancer Center in Houston. She is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric hematology/oncology by the American Board of Pediatrics. She has spent several years in the translational research laboratories of the Center for Cell and Gene Therapy (CAGT) in order to achieve her goal of becoming a clinical investigator conducting immunotherapy trials. Among many honors, she received the Outstanding Women in Science Award from the Association for Women in Science for her contributions to leukemia and lymphoma patient care research. In addition to her other commitments, she is an avid volunteer throughout Texas, in small villages in Bolivia, and for The Periwinkle Foundation's events and programs for children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases.

**Doris A. Taylor, PhD**
**CEO, RegenMedix Consulting LLC and Organamet Bio**

Referral: Dr. Taylor was identified by the Review team's Senior Science Officer based on assessment of expertise through publications.

Expertise Relevance to CIRM GWG: Dr. Taylor's expertise in multisite clinical trials, cardiac tissue engineering and bioscaffolds will be invaluable in reviewing Discovery to Clinical stage program awards as well as Infrastructure program awards.

Prior Service in CIRM Reviews: N/A

Bio:
Dr. Doris Taylor is the CEO of RegenMedix Consulting LLC (which enables academic and commercial enterprises in the regenerative medicine), CEO of Organamet Bio (a company committed to bioengineering personalized human hearts on demand), a principal business consultant at Wizer Designs (specializing in commercial enterprises in the regenerative medicine), and Co-Founder and original Board member of Miromatrix Medical Inc. (which leads the world in progressing towards eliminating the organ transplant wait-list and the promise of generating fully transplantable organs). She is credited with important scientific breakthroughs related to cell and gene therapy, stem cell biology, and tissue engineering, such as the first functional scientific repair of injured heart with stem cells and developing a decellularization method that makes un-transplantable organs into usable scaffold frameworks for building new organs with stem cells. Dr. Taylor is frequently called upon to provide by the public media for her expertise on cell therapy, women's health, cardiac repair and organ transplantation.

Dr. Taylor earned her PhD in Pharmacology from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas and completed her postdoctoral fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Prior to her current roles, Dr. Taylor held faculty and or leadership appointments at Duke University Medical Center, University of Minnesota Medical School, Texas Heart Institute, Texas A&M University, and Rice University, as well as an honorary medical professorship in Krasnodar Russia. She has been committed to moving cell, gene, and tissue engineering-based therapies safely and effectively from bench to bedside, while at the same time preparing students and fellows to compete at an international level in the field of cardiac and vascular repair and regeneration. She has trained hundreds of undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate fellows worldwide in her laboratories in the U.S. and Europe. She has published close to 200 papers, holds over 30 patents, and sits on numerous think tanks and international scientific committees including for the NIH, the FDA, the American Association of Blood Banks, and the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine. She has also served on the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) Basic Science/Translational Research Council and served on the international jury for the Institut de France LeFoulon-Delalande Foundation Grand Prix which is awarded annually to individuals making worldwide contributions to cardiovascular medicine. She is a member of the Leadership Advisory Committee for the

Advanced Regenerative Manufacturing Institute (ARMI), the Society for Women's Health Research (SWHR) Cardiovascular Working Group, and the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences (OSSD).

**REAPPOINTMENTS**

CIRM is seeking the reappointment of the individuals listed in the table below. Their updated biographies follow.

## Proposed Reappointments to GWG

| Last | First | Term | Years | Expertise |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| De Bari | Cosimo | 3 | 6 | Arthritis, Cartilage Repair |
| Sauer | John-Mchael | 2 | 6 | Toxicology, Pharmacology, Drug Discovery & Development |
| Simmons | Paul | 3 | 6 | Hematopoiesis; Mesenchymal Stem Cells |
| Tomei | Alice Anna | 2 | 6 | Type 1 Diabetes, Beta Cell Replacement, Tissue Engineering, Nanomaterials |

**Cosimo De Bari, MD, PhD, FRCP**
Professor Cosimo De Bari is a clinically active rheumatologist and a translational scientist with expertise in musculoskeletal regenerative medicine and arthritis pathophysiology. He has a long-standing interest and track record in the study of joint health and disease, with a focus on cell-based therapies for cartilage repair and osteoarthritis.

Cosimo graduated in Medicine (summa cum laude) from the University of Bari (Italy), where he underwent specialist training in Rheumatology. He obtained his PhD from the University of Leuven (Belgium). In 2003 Cosimo moved to King's College London, where in 2005 he was awarded an MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship. Since 2007 Cosimo holds a clinical chair in Translational Medicine at the University of Aberdeen.

Cosimo is the founder and director of the Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (awarded “Centre of Excellence in Rheumatology” status by the EULAR), leads the Arthritis and Regenerative Medicine Laboratory, and is deputy director of the Tissue Engineering & Regenerative Therapies Centre Versus Arthritis.

Cosimo has served as a GWG member for almost 10 years. He has reviewed for Clinical and Discovery stage program awards as well as Strategic Partnership awards.

**John-Michael Sauer, PhD**
Dr. John-Michael Sauer is Vice President of Discovery and Nonclinical Development at Peptilogics. He is also Adjunct Research Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and Professor of Practice at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law. He has over 20 years of experience in drug discovery and development, successfully advancing therapeutic molecules from early discovery to Phase IV development. He is dedicated to bringing quantitative translational science approaches to safety assessment, as well as transforming the way we use nonclinical safety data to drive clinical study design and data interpretation. He has experience with small molecule, peptide and antibody therapeutics, and expertise in high through-put screening, toxicology, drug metabolism, pharmacokinetics, pharmacology, biomarkers and regulatory affairs/operations.

Dr. Sauer received his BS in Biomedical Sciences and MS in Biological Sciences at Western Michigan University, and his PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology from The University of Arizona. He has been responsible for leading multiple functional areas across several pharmaceutical companies. Prior to joining Peptilogics, he served as Senior Vice President of Translational and Safety Science at the Critical Path Institute where he led the Translational Therapeutic Accelerator (TRxA) in facilitating academic drug discovery towards development into biopharmaceutical company portfolios. Throughout his career at C-Path, he oversaw multiple consortia including those for infectious

disease, drug safety, inflammatory bowel disease, kidney disease, solid organ transplant as well as, the utilization of real-world data and drug repurposing. Prior to C-Path, he led drug disposition and in vitro pharmacology scientists in the discovery and development of peptide and protein (ADC and CovX-body) therapeutics at Pfizer-CovX and provided leadership on global projects and initiatives for in vitro ADME and toxicology at Covance Laboratories. He also played a pivotal leadership role in the transformation of Elan Pharmaceutical's discovery and development strategies, including the incorporation of several quantitative translational science approaches, and he had the opportunity to play an individual contributor role at Eli Lilly where he participated in the development, registration, and commercialization of Strattera for the treatment of ADHD in children and adults, as well as supported many other discovery and development teams. In addition to his industry experience, he also publishes in peer-reviewed manuscripts, reviews and book chapters in the areas of toxicology, drug metabolism, clinical pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, and pharmacology. On the regulatory front, he has also authored several regulatory reports and submission documents (IND, NDA, and CTD) for international submission, as well as regulatory submissions for qualification of biomarkers with U.S. FDA, EMA, and PMDA.

Dr. Sauer has served as a GWG member for almost 6 years. He has reviewed for the Clinical and Translational stage programs.

**Paul J. Simmons, PhD**
Dr. Paul Simmons is Head of Research & New Product Development of Mesoblast, an Australian biotech company that is using their proprietary mesenchymal lineage cell technology platform to develop and commercialize innovative allogeneic cellular medicines to treat complex inflammatory diseases resistant to conventional standard of care. Products in development include use of mesenchymal precursor cells for treating steroid refractory acute graft versus host disease, advanced and end-stage chronic heart failure, acute myocardial infarction, biologic-refractory rheumatoid arthritis, diabetic complications (including diabetic nephropathy), Crohn's disease refractory to steroids and immune suppressants, and chronic low back pain caused by disc degeneration.

Dr. Simmons received his BSc from Queen Elizabeth College, University of London, and his PhD from the University of Manchester. He performed postdoctoral research at the BC Cancer Research Center in Vancouver, British Columbia, and at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, Washington. Prior to joining Mesoblast, Dr Simmons had nearly 30 years of experience in stem cell research, especially research in basic hematopoiesis and in precursor cells for the stromal system of the bone marrow. He served as President of the International Society of Stem Cell Research, he held the C. Harold and Lorine G. Wallace Distinguished University Chair at the University of Texas Health, and served as the inaugural Professor and Director of the Centre for Stem Cell Research at the Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine. He is, or has served as, an associate editor, a member of the editorial board, or a reviewer on multiple scientific and medical journals including *Experimental Hematology, Cytotherapy and Stem Cell Research, Cell Stem Cell, Stem Reports, Science* and *Nature*.

Dr. Simmons served as a GWG member for 10 years. He reviewed for Discovery stage programs, Disease Team Research awards and Tools and Technology awards.

**Alice A. Tomei, PhD**
Dr. Alice A. Tomei is the Knight Career Development Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Miami. While her primary appointment is within the College of Engineering, she also holds appointments in the Department of Surgery and Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Miami School of Medicine. She is also Director of the Islet Immunoengineering Lab at the Diabetes Research Institute within the University of Miami School of Medicine. Dr. Tomei's background uniquely combines expertise in bioengineering and immunology and she applies her skills to the development of novel immunoengineering platforms to prevent rejection after islet transplantation and to promote antigen-specific tolerance for a cure of Type I diabetes. Her research expertise and interests lie in Type I diabetes, beta cell replacement (islets and stem cell derived islets), tolerance, biomaterials, tissue engineering, nanomaterials, and local drug delivery, and her lab's mission is to integrate immunological challenges with bioengineering platforms with the aim of developing novel therapeutics for Type I diabetes.

Dr. Tomei received her MS in Materials Engineering from Politecnico di Milano in Milan, Italy, and her PhD in Biotechnology & Bioengineering from École Polytechnique Fédérale (EPFL) in Lausanne, Switzerland. She completed her postdoctoral studies in the Laboratory of Regenerative Medicine and Pharmacobiology at EPFL. Her research has been published in journals such as *Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering, Biomaterials, Science, PNAS, Transplantation,* and the *Journal of Immunology,* with some of her research resulting in patents related to conformal encapsulation of cell clusters and ligand delivery and co-delivery in immunotherapy. Among many honors, she has received the Biomedical Engineering Society Young Innovator in Cellular and Molecular Bioengineering

award and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Career Development Award. She serves on the editorial review board of the *Journal of Biomedical Engineering and Informatics,* the journal *CellR4 Repair, Replacement, Regeneration, and Reprogramming* and on the special topic publication *Frontiers in Endocrinology: The Future of Beta Cells Replacement in the Era of Regenerative Medicine and Organ Bioengineering.* She has served as a peer-reviewer for journals such as *Diabetes, Nature Nanotechnology* and *Bioactive Materials.* She serves also served a standing member of the NIH Biomaterial and Biointerfaces study section and has served as ad hoc reviewer for the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the NIH Office of Extramural Research. In addition to her research, academic and professional responsibilities, Dr. Tomei also participates in K-12 science outreach, hosts high school students through summer internships and mentors Howard Hughes Medical Institute Program awardees.

Dr. Tomei has as a GWG member for almost 6 years. She has reviewed for Discovery stage programs and Education program awards.

## APPOINTMENT OF CIRM BOARD PATIENT ADVOCATE OR NURSE MEMBERS

**Marvin (Marv) Southard, MSW, DSW**
**University of Southern California (USC)**
**Professor of Practice at the University of Southern California (USC**
**Patient Advocate, Mental Health Conditions**

Dr. Marvin (Marv) Southard is the former Director of the largest county - run mental health services organization in the United States, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), with a budget approaching $3 billion, serving more than a quarter of a million persons annually that supports innovative co-located services within schools, courts, other County departments, and various community organizations.

In this role at LACDMH, Marv assembled a ground - breaking team that accomplished creative and inclusive work with communities including regional mental health urgent care centers, crisis response teams, children and older adult systems of care, Health Neighborhoods, and partnerships with faith communities to further social justice.

Marv has focused his career on empowering healthy urban and rural communities to strengthen recovery from mental health and substance use challenges. He served for a decade as a leader of community behavioral health services in East Los Angeles. Marv also founded substance abuse treatment centers and served as a clinical director and leader of numerous organizations, as well as acting in another county government leadership role as the Kern County Director of Mental Health.

On leaving government service, Marv continued to serve communities, mental health organizations, and governmental entities as a consultant and Professor of Practice at the University of Southern California (USC), where he developed the Professional DSW degree program, mentoring the next generation of community service leaders.