

Memorandum from Joan Samuelson to Sherry Lansing Regarding Board Chair Criteria

I suggest the following as additional criteria for the new Chair. I have no problem with the current set of criteria recommended by the Governance Subcommittee. I would like to add the following elements, for the Board's consideration at the upcoming meeting.

1. The recommendations of the External Advisory Panel are right on target. They will, however, require a big switch from the current agenda and will require great vision and leadership by the Chair.
2. Many people are saying that we should lead the global effort for stem cell therapy. This sounds daunting but could be best way to drive the mission; and we're probably the sole player with enough money, a clear mandate and no s/c ban/restrictions. Moreover, this is probably the only realistic way to accomplish the EAP recommendation that we extend beyond our geographic limits to wider collaboration; i.e. global ones.
3. We should work with NIH Director Francis Collins on his new "Translation Institute" and the recently-enacted and funded Cures Acceleration Network, both of which fit well with the EAP's recommendations.
4. A recent CIRM newsletter ran a story on recommendations for big changes in IP. If this is necessary, it should be handled by a Chair with Bob-type skills (law, policy, leadership) and conversely not distract the President from the science focus.
5. The history of development of the polio vaccine is a good role model: Salk was commissioned to produce an effective and safe vaccine in record time to prevent another "polio summer". Basil O'Connor, (who had Bob-like skills and training) ran the overall enterprise and led such "non-scientific" challenges as creation of the vast clinical trial structure and operational apparatus, successful manufacturing of sufficient quantities of the trial vaccine, manufacturing and distribution of the final vaccine and a national vaccination program; and, throughout, running a sophisticated communications effort that created awareness and support by the citizenry for the campaign for a vaccine; and created the March of Dimes. I don't think it is realistic to go back to California for more money, but a global "March of Dimes"- like effort could be a winner if we are driving a strategic, urgent and productive effort that is producing results.

Thanks, folks. Joan