



To: CIRM ICOC Review Board

January 22, 2019

Subject: Thompson CLIN1 Application to Test Feasibility of Using Stem Cells for HD

The world of a family member with Huntington’s disease (HD) is one of a slow death, and for a family member “at risk” for HD, it is a world of fear and uncertainty. The spirit of HD family members survives on HOPE, an expectation or belief that we will have a treatment for HD and save them from a fatal diagnosis.

There are currently no options for a treatment for HD. We feel that we need to try as many options as possible, rather than focusing solely on one treatment option that could possibly fail. We echo the words of Dr. Stanley Crook, Founder of Ionis Pharmaceuticals, who states the following about his company: *“Our culture is built on open science and an absolute aversion to the word NO. A desperate patient with few options for treatment should never hear that word.”* Not trying several options could mean that yet another generation of Huntington's disease families will lose the fight, while the possible treatment remains sitting in the HD lab without ever being discovered.

Science builds and organizes knowledge in the form of testable explanations and predictions. It is the flame that inspires HOPE in the hearts of courageous HD family members. Through science, HD can become a thing of the past.

On behalf of the entire Huntington’s disease community, the undersigned respectfully ask you to keep our hope alive and fund the **Thompson CLIN1 application to test feasibility of using stem cells for HD.**

Respectfully,

- Frances D. Saldana, President, HD-CARE
- Ken Kast – 1st Vice President, HD-CARE
- Karen Thorburn – 2nd Vice President, HD-CARE
- Tammy Schuff – Treasurer, HD-CARE
- Diane Ford – Secretary, HD-CARE
- Sarah Hernandez, PhD – HD-CARE Board Member
- Shaheen Husain – HD-CARE Board Member
- Daniel Ignacio, PhD – HD-CARE Board Member
- Lester Savit – HD-CARE Board Member

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Frances Saldaña respectfully signs on behalf of the following supporters:

- Malcolm Casale, PhD – HD-CARE Scientific Advisory Board
- Daniel Medina – Former HD-CARE Board Member
- Jeff Main – Former HD-CARE Board Member
- Leslie Lindgren – Former HD-CARE Board Member
- Gary Edkins - HD Patient Supporter and family friend
- Craig Hayes - HD Widower
- Angelique Hayes – HD-CARE Volunteer
- David Saldaña, HD-CARE Volunteer and deceased HD children’s stepfather