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California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM)
Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) Board
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1650
Oakland, California 94612

January 18, 2019

Re: Letter of Support for CIRM Proposal CLIN1-10953: An hESC-derived hNSC
Therapeutic for Huntington's Disease, PI Leslie Thompson, PhD.

Dear CIRM ICOC Board Members:

This letter is to express our strong support of Dr. Thompson's CLIN1 proposal employing the use of human embryonic stem cell (hESC)-derived neural stem cells (NSC) for the treatment of Huntington's disease. Human pluripotent stem cells have the potential to treat a host of human degenerative diseases, and Dr. Thompson's work has significantly moved the field forward in realizing this potential. The positive effects of the NSC transplants seen in animal models of Huntington's disease have encouraged us to promise our continued support of Dr. Thompson's project.

We are especially encouraged by the demonstration that hESC-derived progenitor cells demonstrate potential efficacy for a clearly-defined unmet clinical need. Furthermore, while pluripotent stem cell CMC issues such as difficulties in controlling differentiation have hampered product development in the past, and adult stem cells have limited differentiation potential, scalability, and lot-to-lot variability, the human ESC derived NSC progenitor cells and the methods used herein reduce the complexity of the manufacturing protocols, improve scalability, thereby making them a potentially superior clinical product. We believe that this mode of treatment may have additional application in the treatment of other devastating neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease. The continuation of this project will generate valuable knowledge that can be used for future studies using stem cells to treat these as well as other devastating neurodegenerative diseases.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. West", is written over a white background.

Michael D. West, PhD
CEO, AgeX Therapeutics, Inc.