

CIRM Shared Research Labs Award Supplement

Proposal

Request ICOC approval for an extension of the Shared Research Lab Facilities Awards for an additional three years.

Overview

- Purpose: to extend CIRM support for operations for existing Shared Research Lab Facilities (Shared Labs) for three additional years (beyond the initial three-year funded period)
- Eligibility: institutions with a currently CIRM-funded Shared Research Lab
- Eligible costs:
 - Lab operations: \$200,000/yr direct costs
 - Research Equipment: \$50,000 per award
 - Course support (for facilities with a previously approved course component): \$200,000/yr direct costs
 - Indirect and facility costs
- Total program cost: ~\$22 M

Rationale

The Shared Lab facilities currently serve as essential core resources and catalysts for stem cell research at 17 California research institutions. CIRM has carefully and regularly monitored the progress of these laboratories, which has included periodic site visits and convening of Program Directors and lab managers at CIRM 's Grantee Meeting. The Shared Labs have proven to be a valuable resource that fulfills the important goals sought from this initiative.

These labs provide dedicated (safe harbor) research space, specialized instrumentation, a supply of cell lines and culture materials, and stem cell expertise. Additionally, they supply instruction and training in cutting-edge methods both as formally offered courses and one-on-one, customized instruction. This training function extends to the CIRM Bridges programs that rely on the Shared Labs to provide basic stem cell techniques courses for Bridges Trainees. Furthermore, the Shared Labs serve as foci for collaboration, networking, and information exchange for stem cell research communities at the various institutions.

The Shared Lab Awards provided three years of operating funds that followed on an initial CIRM investment to renovate and create the federal funding-free laboratory space. Most of the facilities began operation in 2009, and support under these awards will terminate in 2012. Most of the facilities have adopted recharge mechanisms or leveraged additional funding to help cover costs for consumable supplies and lab support for investigators. However, CIRM support of Shared Lab core personnel, maintenance, and other operational costs remains critical for the viability of these facilities, particularly in light of the current economic situation and the limited local financial resources available for ongoing core-lab support.

A Shared Labs Supplement would provide an additional three years of support to continue operations of this valuable resource and will ensure it's continued availability to the stem cell community in California. As is standard practice, CIRM will monitor progress of each Shared Lab throughout the award period and funding of additional years will be contingent on their continued achievement of the program objectives. Given the exceptional performance of the laboratories thus far we expect that the Shared Labs will continue their success under CIRM support.

Current Shared Research Labs

Institution	Course	Current End Date
Buck Institute for Age Research	+	6/30/11
Children's Hospital of Los Angeles		8/31/12
Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute		1/31/12
Stanford University	+	8/31/11
The J. David Gladstone Institutes		12/31/11
The Salk Institute for Biological Studies		11/14/10
The Scripps Research Institute	+	12/31/11
University of California, Berkeley		12/31/12
University of California, Davis		10/31/12
University of California, Irvine	+	4/30/12
University of California, Los Angeles		1/31/13
University of California, Riverside		7/31/12
University of California, San Diego		10/31/11
University of California, San Francisco	+	5/31/12
University of California, Santa Barbara		9/30/12
University of California, Santa Cruz		2/28/12
University of Southern California	+	6/30/12