



OFFICE OF THE DEAN – LIFE SCIENCES
COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE
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via email

August 25, 2022

Jonathan Thomas
Chair, Independent Citizens Oversight Committee
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

RE: EDUC5-13817, *COMPASS: Accelerating Stem Cell Research by Educating and Empowering New Stem Cell Researchers*, PI: Tracy Johnson, PhD

Dear Chair Thomas and the Application Review Subcommittee,

I want to thank the CIRM Grants Working Group for its very favorable review and recommendation for funding of our above referenced proposal. The overall score of 92, with a high score of 97, indicates the proposal shows “*exceptional merit and warrants funding*”. The reviewers were extremely positive noting:

- *This is a well-designed program and very inclusive of a diverse population.*
- *The plan to provide skills development and scientific identity training to trainees is excellent. Exposing trainees to research early positions them well to optimize their research experience.*
- *Well-defined courses and structure; led by an impressive faculty.*
- *The summer lecture series connecting science to social justice issues is a strong addition to the patient outreach/community engagement programming that will help students connect their research to human health.*
- *The ongoing Diversity in Science series will provide much needed psychosocial support to the trainees.*
- *Recruitment within community college programs is a major strength.*

Grade Point Average (GPA): Though the reviews were very positive, there was concern expressed regarding the use of GPA and how it could unfairly and negatively bias the trainee selection process. We acknowledge the seriousness of the concern and we want to assure the GWG and the Application Review Subcommittee that we will NOT use GPA as part of the application and selection process.

We are deeply appreciative of the GWG enthusiasm for our proposal. As illustrated in our application, we are dedicated to the successful training of the next generation of stem cell scientists. I will be attending the August 30, 2022, Application Review Subcommittee meeting and will be happy to address any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Johnson".

Tracy Johnson, PhD
Dean, Division of Life Sciences, UCLA College
University of California, Los Angeles
Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor
Professor, Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology

cc: Maria Bonneville, Executive Director, Independent Citizens Oversight Committee
Gil Sambrano, PhD; Vice President of Portfolio Development and Review