City of Hope™

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ICOC/Application Review Subcommittee Meeting

Dear Maria Bonneville and the ICOC subcommittee:

SARS-CoV-2 continues to ravage the world. Vaccine compliance will remain incomplete and new virus variants will continue to emerge. There is a dire need for a therapy to treat COVID-19, but to date little funding has been allocated to develop one.

We have a therapy that works on all beta-coronaviruses and cured COVID-19 in mice; see publication (PMID: 33907744). The proposal DISC2-12271 entitled *Neural stem cell exosome therapy for COVID-19* proposes to generate this therapy as the first bona fide SARS-CoV-2 direct targeted therapy for the treatment for COVID-19 which is responsive to the CIRM Special Call for COVID-19 Projects.

This application proposes to develop a neural stem cell product that can be mass produced as a drug to treat COVID-19. However, to develop this drug pre-clinical studies are required and as the entire development has been carried out on limited resources and we now face the very real prospect of either developing this with nominal CIRM support or abandoning the entire approach. Please note that this approach is modular and could result in not only a new treatment for COVID-19 but also an entirely new platform technology and stem cell-based industry that is unique to California.

I do hope you will consider supporting application DISC2-12271 as:
(1) There is dire need for therapeutics for COVID-1.
(2) Vaccines alone will not be sufficient controlling this pandemic and COVID-19.
(3) The proposed drug is built on solid preliminary and published data and is the perfect use of neural stem cells, e.g. these cells can produce an unlimited supply of the drug and are imbued with anti-inflammatory properties.
(4) This proposal is not only remarkably close to developing a new drug to treat COVID-19 but will also result in the genesis of an entirely new platform technology using Neural Stem Cells that can be applied to treat various other diseases ranging from Alzheimer's to Parkinson's, to drug addiction.

Sincerely,

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