

To the Application Review Subcommittee of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine,


I would like to submit this letter in strong support of the INFR 6.1 application “Live Cell Biotechnology Discovery Lab” by Dr. Mohammed Mostajo-Radji and Dr. David Haussler.

The Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) program is a nationally recognized program that helps students from underrepresented and disadvantaged groups prepare for a career in STEAM. MESA has a strong presence throughout the entirety of California, working with thousands of students in community colleges, high schools and middle schools across the state. Indeed, MESA has 3 primary branches that aim to target students at different stages in their education: MESA Schools Program (MSP), MESA Community College Program (MCCP), and MESA Engineering Program (MEP). The University of California administers MESA through local, and is funded by the state legislature, industry contributions and grants.

I was delighted to learn that Dr. Mostajo-Radji and Dr. Haussler were working together with MESA instructors, including Ms. Rebecca Ward at Alisal High School. This work has yielded positive results, including the integration of cancer stem cell models in the AP Biology education curriculum and the publication of comprehensive research on the impact of their work in Californian Latinx students. Furthermore, I was thrilled about the possibility of expanding the reach to students in other schools in our network through CIRM INFR 6.1. One of such possibilities is the creation of professional development workshops where instructors can learn about cloud-enabled technologies and their integration in the classroom. MESA frequently provides career and professional development opportunities for our instructors, and therefore our office is well equipped to advance this endeavor by providing logistic support and bringing together instructors that are part of MESA. These workshops can be either in person at the UCSC campus, remote or hybrid, and can reach the whole state. Our office therefore commits to providing this support to the Live Cell Biotechnology Discovery Lab. In addition, we commit to providing exposure to the team by giving them space to present their technologies and their work at MESA events, such as MESA day.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions.

Kindly

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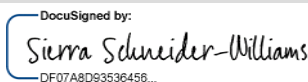
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