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Dr. Goldstein,

I am writing to express my strong support for the inclusion of Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) as a neurodegenerative disease eligible for funding by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). As a former Residential Care Administrator and the current President / CEO of Alzheimer's San Diego, I have witnessed firsthand the devastating impact that FTD has on individuals and families, and I believe that dedicating resources to research in this area is crucial. In recent years we have seen an increase in the number of FTD individuals reaching out to us to access our programs and services. At Alzheimer's San Diego we provide support to not just the person with FTD but to their family, friends, and care partners as well.

Despite its significant burden on individuals and caregivers, FTD remains underrecognized and underfunded compared to other neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. Our staff is providing direct support to those trying to navigate their way through the disease and there is a desperate need for more resources for support in this area.

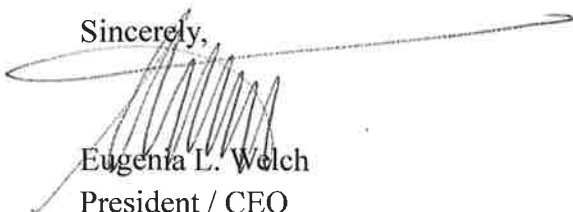
Including FTD as a priority area for funding would not only advance our understanding of the disease mechanisms but also accelerate the development of much-needed therapies and interventions. With this added funding, there is great potential for innovative approaches to treating FTD, including disease modeling, drug discovery, and cell-based therapies.

In my opinion, funding FTD research clearly aligns with CIRM's mission to accelerate stem cell treatments to patients with unmet medical needs. By investing in FTD research, CIRM can make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of individuals and families affected by this devastating disease.

I urge the Neuro Task Force to consider the inclusion of FTD as a priority area for funding and to recognize the urgent need for dedicated resources in this field.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Eugenia L. Welch
President / CEO