

# Discovery Foundation Awards (DISCO)

**Informational Webinar**

December 16, 2024



# Quick Announcements

- This webinar pertains to Foundation Awards due **February 6, 2025**
- This is the final Foundation Awards Cycle. CIRM will announce new discovery stage funding opportunities in response to recommendations from our Governing Board
- Q&A will focus on general questions. If you have questions related to your specific project, please submit them or request a consultation at [discovery@cirm.ca.gov](mailto:discovery@cirm.ca.gov)

## Our Mission

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Accelerating world class science to deliver transformative regenerative medicine treatments in an equitable manner to a diverse California and world.

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# Webinar Panelists



**Kelly Shepard**  
Director,  
Discovery & Education



**Uta Grieshammer**  
CIRM Fellow,  
Discovery & Education



**Chan Lek Tan**  
Sr. Science Officer,  
Discovery & Education



**Janie Byrum**  
Sr. Science Officer,  
Discovery & Education



**Hayley Lam**  
Director,  
Portfolio Development & Review



**Mira Sarwal**  
Sr. Grants Management Officer,  
Grants Management



**Ruby Karimjee**  
Project Manager  
Discovery & Education

# Agenda

- 1 Part 1: Presentation** **3:00 - 3:45pm**
  - Program Overview and Updates
    - Single PI Track
    - Team Track
  - Review Process and Criteria
  - Application Components and Considerations
  - Information and Resources
  - Common Issues
  
- 2 Part 2: Question & Answer** **3:45 - 4:00pm**

# Program Overview and Updates



# DISC0: Foundation Award Program Objective and Scope

## **Foundational or mechanistic research leading to novel discoveries or technologies to:**

- Understand the basic biology of stem and progenitor cells.
- Advance the application of stem cells in basic research.
- Advance the application of stem cells in regenerative medicine
- Address bottlenecks in regenerative medicine
- Extend regenerative medicine to diverse human populations.



# DISC0: Foundation Award Scientific Eligibility

## Proposed research **MUST:**

- 1. Identify and address a knowledge gap or bottleneck**
- 2. Be centered on human biology.** Use of non-human models should be justified, and any findings should be validated in human tissue or models.
- 3. Include human stem cell use OR genetic research relevant to stem cell and gene therapies,** e.g. application of stem cell models for disease modeling or technology development.



# Program Structure: Two Tracks

	Single PI Track	Team Track
Duration	3 years	3 years
Max budget (Direct)	\$1.5M	\$3M
CA eligibility	California non-profit or for-profit research institutions	
Applicant Team	Single Principal Investigator Co-Investigators not required	Single Principal Investigator Min 1 Max 2 Co-Investigators
Min % effort	15% (PI)	15% (PI), 10% (Co-I)

# Two Tracks: Single PI and Team

*Which track should I apply to?*

<p><b>Single-PI Track</b></p>	<p>Projects with discrete objectives that are achievable under the leadership of a single investigator</p>
<p><b>Team Track</b></p>	<p><u>Multidisciplinary collaborations</u> of 2-3 investigators that can benefit from unique synergy of diverse perspectives</p> <p><i>From Review Criteria (PA page 10): Do proposed collaborations (particularly for Team Track projects) offer a unique synergy or advantage that augments the potential impact of the project?</i></p>

# Investigator Eligibility

- PI and co-I (team track) **MUST** be an employee of a **CA-based organization**
- No substantially similar or overlapping activities pending review or approval under **any** CIRM opportunity.

<p><b>Principal Investigator</b></p>	<p>1 PI required for all applications Must commit at least 15% effort to project Cannot submit more than 1 DISCO application per cycle</p>
<p><b>Co-Investigator</b></p>	<p>Designation applied to Team Track apps only (min 1, max 2) Must commit at least 10% effort to project Cannot be part of same lab at PI</p>
<p><b>Data project manager</b></p>	<p>Required for projects with substantial omics data generation Commit at least 15% effort</p>

# What activities will CIRM Fund?

- Basic research into human stem cell biology
- Investigating stem cells or their derivatives as tools for research or medicine
- Genetic research relevant to human biology and stem cells or regenerative medicine
- Extending the applicability of discoveries to diverse populations
- Bottlenecks in the development of stem cell-based and gene therapies
- Reverse translation studies related to regenerative medicine
- Study of human tissues as ground truth for stem cells models or regenerative medicine
- Tool/tech development related to stem cells or regenerative medicine
- Target and biomarker discovery related to regenerative medicine

“Regenerative medicine” includes stem cell-based therapies and gene therapies.

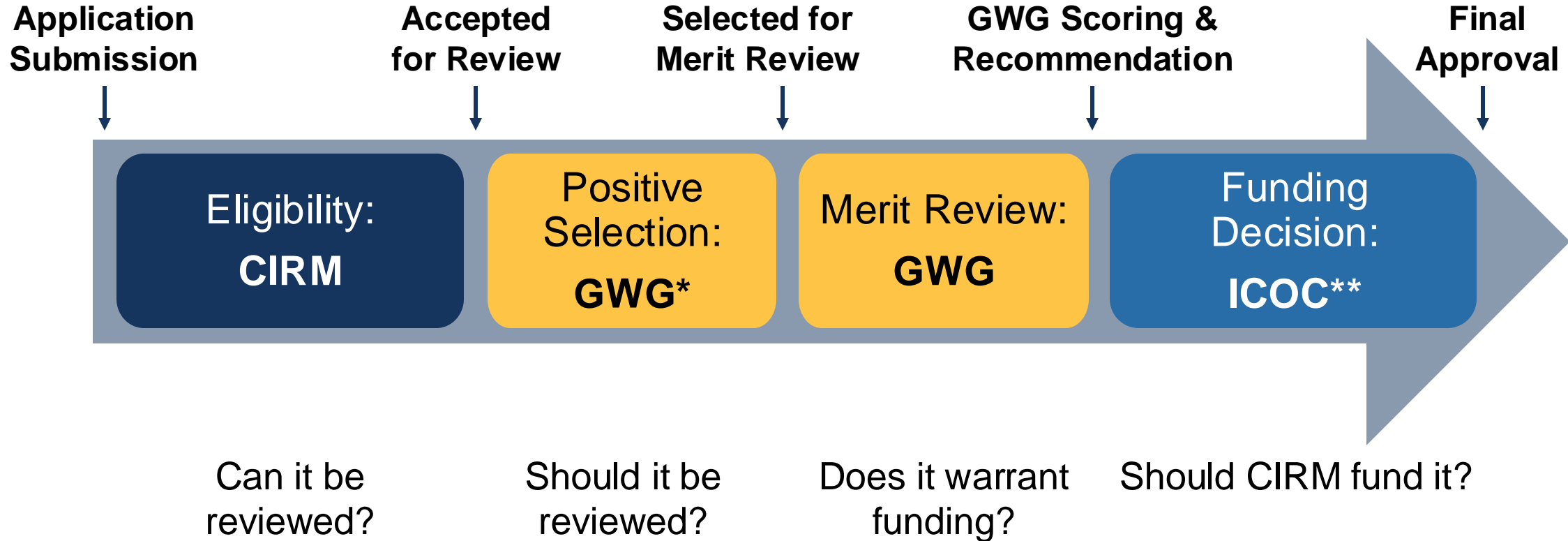
“Stem cells” includes stem and progenitor cells

## Out of Scope Activities (**DISCO will NOT fund**)

- ✗ Activities relevant to optimizing a therapeutic approach or selecting a development candidate, rather than addressing a knowledge gap
- ✗ Translational, preclinical and clinical stage activities targeted by CIRM's translational and preclinical programs
- ✗ Projects that propose solely or mainly to derive new pluripotent stem cell lines from somatic cells or embryos
- ✗ Activities that already budgeted or paid for under a prior, existing or future CIRM award

# Review Process and Criteria

# Application Review Process



\*Grants Working Group \*\*Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee

# Positive Selection

## Review Process for **High Volume\* Programs**

- **Stage 1: “Positive Selection”**- **GWG members** conduct a pre-review of all applications to identify a subset that they believe are most impactful and responsive to the program.
- **Stage 2 : Applications selected** by any given GWG member in Stage 1 move to Stage 2, Merit Review.
- **Unselected Applications:** do not advance to Stage 2 nor receive critiques

\* A two-stage review is conducted when the total number of applications exceeds the capacity of a CIRM GWG panel to review in a single session.

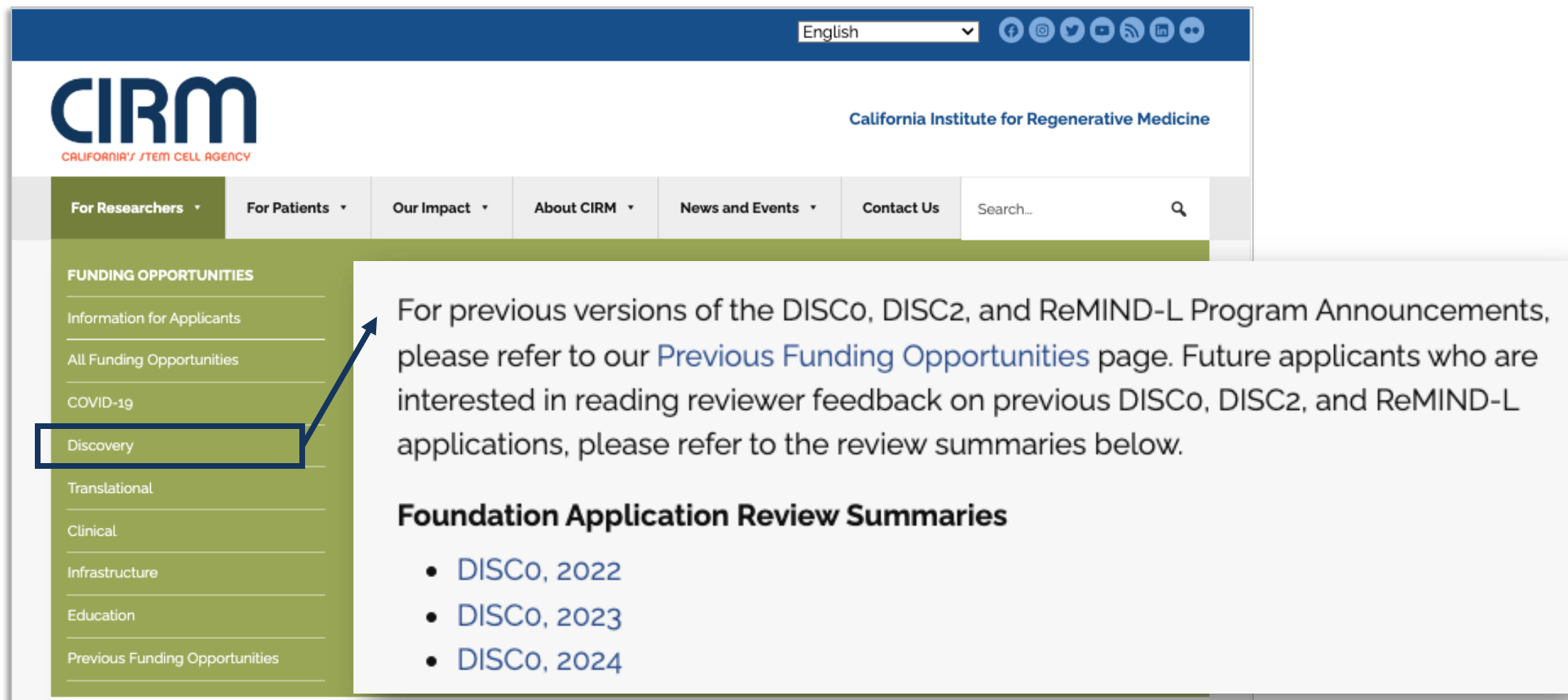


# Scientific Review Criteria

1. Does the project hold the necessary **significance and potential for impact\***?
2. **Is the rationale sound?**
3. **Is the project well planned and designed?**
4. **Is the project feasible?**
5. Does the project **uphold principles of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)**?

\* Assessment of impact now includes consideration of how proposed collaborations (particularly for Team Track projects) offer a unique synergy or advantage that augments the potential impact of the project

# Previous DISCO Review Summaries



English

**CIRM**  
CALIFORNIA'S STEM CELL AGENCY

California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

For Researchers ▾ For Patients ▾ Our Impact ▾ About CIRM ▾ News and Events ▾ Contact Us Search...

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- Information for Applicants
- All Funding Opportunities
- COVID-19
- Discovery**
- Translational
- Clinical
- Infrastructure
- Education
- Previous Funding Opportunities

For previous versions of the DISCO, DISC2, and ReMIND-L Program Announcements, please refer to our [Previous Funding Opportunities](#) page. Future applicants who are interested in reading reviewer feedback on previous DISCO, DISC2, and ReMIND-L applications, please refer to the review summaries below.

**Foundation Application Review Summaries**

- [DISCO, 2022](#)
- [DISCO, 2023](#)
- [DISCO, 2024](#)

# Application Components and Considerations

# Application: Getting Started

Log-in at <http://grants.cirm.ca.gov/>  
Select “Start a DISC0 Grant Application”

## Other Things You Could Do

- Browse current [Open Programs](#) to start a new application
- Review [Your Applications](#) to see all previously submitted, expired, abandoned, and withdrawn applications

## RFA's and Programs Open For Applications

## Actions

DISC 0 CIRM Foundation - Discovery Stage Research Projects: DISC0 Grant Application

[Start a DISC0 Grant Application](#)

*The PI/PD of all applications/pre-applications/LOIs created here will be the person whose name is listed at the top of this page. You cannot use these links to create applications for any other PI/PD.*

# Application: Components

## ONLINE SECTION

- Eligibility
- Personnel
- Project, including **Positive Selection Preview Page**
- Funding
- Certifications

## UPLOADS SECTION (Attachments)

**Required**– must use templates provided

- Proposal
- Timeline
- Biographical Sketches for Key Personnel
- PI (and Co-I, Team track) Other Support
- Solvency Worksheet & Documentation (*for-profit applicants only*)

### Optional

- Letters of Support
- Quotes
- IP, Licenses, MTA

**Required sections will change from “Incomplete” to “Complete”**

<a href="#">Instructions</a>	
<a href="#">Print View</a>	
<b>Eligibility</b>	
<a href="#">Eligibility</a>	Incomplete
<b>Personnel</b>	
<a href="#">PI and AOO</a>	Incomplete
<a href="#">Key Personnel</a>	Incomp (1)
<a href="#">Partners</a>	
<a href="#">Review Exclusions</a>	
<b>Project</b>	
<a href="#">Project Title</a>	Incomplete
<a href="#">Positive Selection Preview</a>	Incomplete
<a href="#">Keywords</a>	Incomplete
<a href="#">Public Information</a>	Incomplete
<b>Funding</b>	
<a href="#">Consultants / Subcontracts / Service Contracts</a>	Empty
<a href="#">Co-funders</a>	Empty
<a href="#">CIRM Funds Calculator</a>	Incomplete
<a href="#">Budget Justification</a>	Incomplete
<b>Certifications</b>	
<a href="#">Institutional Approvals and Oversight</a>	Incomplete
<b>Uploads</b>	
<a href="#">Document Uploads</a>	Incomplete

# Application: Positive Selection

Positive Selection Preview provides the **primary description** of the application available to reviewers in the **first phase** of the review process

**Applicants are encouraged to devote significant attention to the completion of this page**

## Positive Selection Preview

*When the number of applications received in a cycle significantly exceeds the number that can be reviewed by the GWG panel, the GWG members conduct the review in two stages. This section will serve as the primary basis for the first stage of review, in which GWG members will select a subset of applications to advance to the second and final stage of review. Do not include any identifying information in this section (e.g., name, organization)*

### 1. Project Summary

1a. What is the expected knowledge gap, bottleneck, or outcome addressed by the proposed research?

0/500

1b. What research is proposed to address this knowledge gap, bottleneck, or outcome? Provide a succinct summary.

<a href="#">Instructions</a>	
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<b>Eligibility</b>	
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<b>Personnel</b>	
<a href="#">PI and AOO</a>	Incomplete
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<b>Certifications</b>	
<a href="#">Institutional Approvals and Oversight</a>	Incomplete
<b>Uploads</b>	
<a href="#">Document Uploads</a>	Incomplete



# Application: Budget

- Direct and Indirect Project Costs entered by year in Funds Calculator
- Subcontracts, co-funding entered in separate section, pulled into Funds Calculator
- All costs/year justified in narrative Budget Justification section

Total CIRM Funded Direct Project Costs	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Personnel	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	0
Supplies	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	0
Equipment	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	0
Travel	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	0
Data Sharing	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	0
Other	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	0
Subcontracts (sum of the full subcontract amounts entered in the 'Consultants/Subcontracts/ServiceContracts' table)				
<b>Total CIRM Funded Direct Project Costs</b>	0	0	0	0

<b>Instructions</b>	
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<b>Eligibility</b>	
<a href="#">Eligibility</a>	Incomplete
<b>Personnel</b>	
<a href="#">PI and AOO</a>	Incomplete
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<a href="#">Budget Justification</a>	Incomplete
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<b>Uploads</b>	
<a href="#">Document Uploads</a>	Incomplete



# Application: Uploads

NAME STATUS TEMPLATES UPLOADED FILES UPLOAD BUTTON

Document Name	Status	Template	Uploaded Files	Acceptable File Types	Upload
* Proposal Please refer to the template for instructions. Template last updated xx/dd/yyyy	Incomplete	<a href="#">MSWord</a>	none	pdf	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>
* Project Timeline Please refer to the template for instructions. Template last updated xx/dd/yyyy	Incomplete	<a href="#">MSWord</a>	none	pdf	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>
* Biographical Sketches for Key Personnel Please refer to the template for instructions. Template last updated 10/14/2013	Incomplete	<a href="#">MSWord</a>	none	pdf	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>
Letters of Support If Applicable In a single PDF, provide any signed letters documenting the following: 1. Institutional support 2. Collaborations 3. Commitment of co-funding	Complete	none	none	pdf	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>
* PI and Co-Investigator Other Support Please refer to the template for instructions. Template last updated xx/dd/yyyy	Incomplete	<a href="#">MSWord</a>	none	pdf	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>
IP, Licenses and Material Transfer Agreements If Applicable Please provide a description of any relevant intellectual property or licensing/material transfer agreements.	Complete	none	none	pdf	<input type="button" value="Choose File"/>

\*REQUIRED

<a href="#">Instructions</a>	
<a href="#">Print View</a>	
<b>Eligibility</b>	
<a href="#">Eligibility</a>	Incomplete
<b>Personnel</b>	
<a href="#">PI and AOO</a>	Incomplete
<a href="#">Key Personnel</a>	Incomp (1)
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<b>Uploads</b>	
<a href="#">Document Uploads</a>	Incomplete





# For-Profit Applicants: Solvency Worksheet & Documentation

**SECTION 1: CASHFLOW** B23

*- Enter historic cash outflows and inflows. If your company is less than 6 months old, provide the full available history.  
- Enter positive numbers only (even for outflows).  
\*Third party costs may include all non-clinical, clinical and manufacturing expenses.*

Historical Cashflow			
Prior 180 days cash <u>outflow</u>		Prior 180 days cash <u>inflow</u>	
Payroll and benefits		Proceeds from financings	
Third party costs*		Proceeds from ATM	
Capital expenditures		Proceeds from lines of credit	
Rent / lease costs		Proceeds from collaborations / out licensing activity	
Other overhead costs		Proceeds from grants	
Other		Other	
Total	\$ -	Total	\$ -
Balance 180 days ago			
Historic Net Cash Flow		\$ -	
Balance on Date of Submission			

*- Enter cash outflows and inflows for the next 180 days.  
\*Third party costs may include all non-clinical, clinical and manufacturing expenses.*

Forward-Looking Cashflow			
Next 180 days cash <u>outflow</u>		Next 180 days cash <u>inflow</u>	
Payroll and benefits		Proceeds from financings	
Third party costs*		Proceeds from ATM	
Capital expenditures		Proceeds from lines of credit	
Rent / lease costs		Proceeds from collaborations / out licensing activity	
Other overhead costs		Proceeds from grants	
Other		Other	
Total	\$ -	Total	\$ -
Forward Looking Net Cash Flow		\$ -	
Balance After 180 Days		\$ -	

## Solvency Supporting Documentation

**As instructed in the Solvency worksheet, append all required supporting documentation after this page.** Delete the sample entries and page numbers and complete the Table of Contents to help CIRM staff navigate your documentation.

**Bank Statement Instructions:** If required to provide bank statements, the statements must show account owner, starting balance and ending balance. Account numbers and individual transactions may be redacted. Statement cover pages and/or online account snapshots are acceptable. Publicly traded companies may provide SEC filings to verify cash-on-hand if those filings cover the relevant time periods.

### Table of Contents

Document Description	Starting Page Number
[Company Name] Bank Statement 1 Dated 08/31/2023	2
[Company Name] Bank Statement 2 Dated 08/31/2023	3
[Investor Name] Term Sheet	5
[Agency name] Notice of Award 6/15/23	6

**You must use provided Templates Found in Uploads Section**

# Application: Proposal Template



- **Use the current required Word Template**
- **Adhere** to prescribed page limits
- **Maintain formatting** (preset fonts, margins)
- **Follow instructions** for each section
- **Convert to PDF** when finished to upload
- **Do not alter** margins, font size, etc.
- **Do not exceed** page limits
- **Do not** leave sections **incomplete**
- **Do not** use a **“DIY”** template

# Application Process: Resubmitting

**DID NOT** previously pass  
Positive Selection



Submit as a **new  
application**

No Resubmissions under  
Team Track

**DID** previously pass Positive Selection and  
received a merit score and GWG comments:



- Designate as a resubmission by selecting “yes” in the Positive Selection Preview section
- Complete Resubmission Statement in the Proposal Template (Uploads)

5. Revised Submission

Are you resubmitting a substantially similar proposal that addresses GWG reviewer comments received in a previous review under the same RFA/PA?

Note: Applicants cannot choose to submit as either a 'new submission' or a 'resubmission.' If this application is substantially similar to a prior application that received comments from CIRM reviewers, please select 'Yes'

Yes

No, this is a new application

b. If yes, please enter the prior application number:

# Contacts and Deadlines

**Applications due February 6, 2025 at 2pm PT**

## PROGRAMMATIC QUESTIONS

**discovery@cirm.ca.gov**

## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**review@cirm.ca.gov**

## BUDGETING AND GRANT ADMIN QUESTIONS

**grantsmanagement@cirm.ca.gov**



**Discovery**

<https://www.cirm.ca.gov/about-cirm/funding-opportunities-discovery-stage-research/>

Recording of this webinar  
and slide deck will be posted  
in ~1 week

# Information and Resources for Applicants

# Information and Resources for Applicants

- Data Sharing
- Human Embryo & Embryo Model Research in California
- CIRM hiPSC Repository
- Shared Resources Labs for Stem Cell-Based Modeling

# CIRM Data Sharing Requirement

## 1. Develop a Data Sharing and Management Plan (DSMP)

- Metadata Catalog
- Data Use Limitations (DUL) Institutional Certification
- Questionnaire

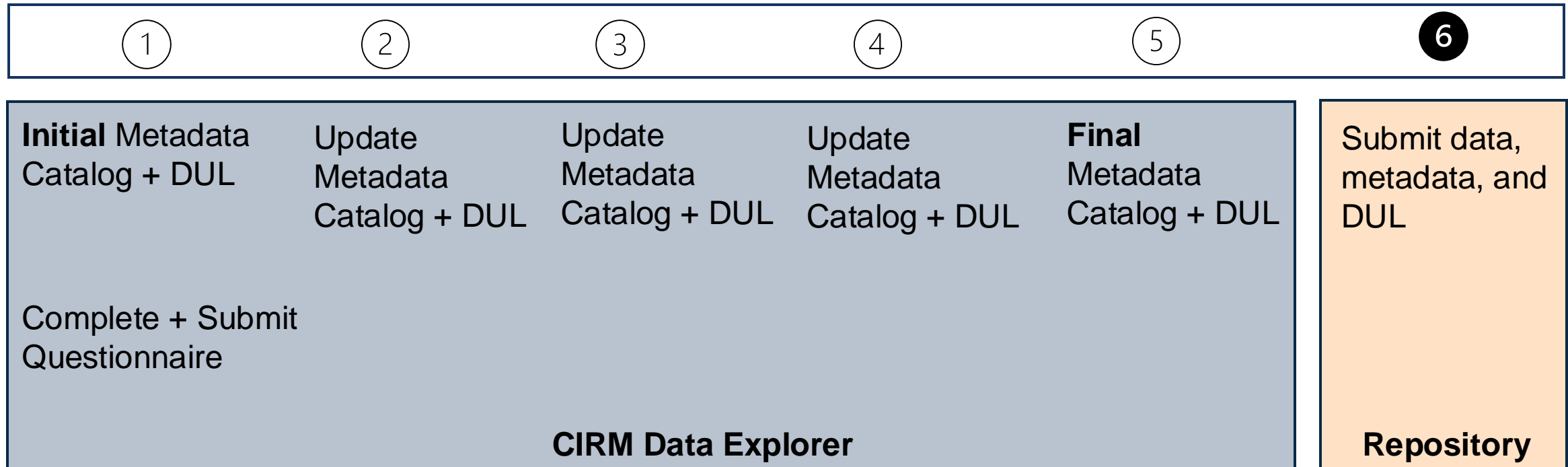
## 2. Deposit data in data repositories by end of award

- dbGaP
- GEO
- Pride
- Flow Repo
- NeMO
- etc.

# CIRM Data Explorer

- Public dashboard
- Search for CIRM-funded datasets
- Report progress against DSMP

## CIRM Award





# Information for Applicants

The image shows a screenshot of the CIRM website's navigation menu. The menu is organized into four columns: FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES, GRANTS, CLINICAL RESOURCES, and RESEARCH RESOURCES. A blue box highlights the 'Information for Applicants' link under the 'FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES' column. A yellow callout box points to this link and contains the text 'Data Sharing and Management' followed by a bulleted list of two items: 'Data Sharing Guidelines' and 'Data Repository Guidance'. The CIRM logo and navigation tabs are visible at the top of the page.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES	GRANTS	CLINICAL RESOURCES	RESEARCH RESOURCES
<a href="#">Information for Applicants</a>	<a href="#">Active Awards Portfolio Dashboard</a>	<a href="#">CIRM Funded Clinical Trials</a>	<a href="#">FAQs for CIRM Awards</a>
<a href="#">All Funding Opportunities</a>	<a href="#">CIRM Grants</a>	<a href="#">Alpha Stem Cell Clinics</a>	<a href="#">Industry Alliance Program</a>
<a href="#">COVID-19</a>	<a href="#">Managing Your Grant</a>	<a href="#">Cell and Gene Therapy Center</a>	<a href="#">iPSC Repository</a>
<a href="#">Discovery</a>	<a href="#">CIRM Grantees</a>	<a href="#">Collaborative Funding Partnerships</a>	<a href="#">Genomics Initiative</a>
<a href="#">Translational</a>	<a href="#">CIRM-Funded Institutions</a>		<a href="#">CIRM Publications</a>
<a href="#">Clinical</a>	<a href="#">CIRM Funding Commitments</a>		<a href="#">Grantee Publications</a>
<a href="#">Infrastructure</a>	<a href="#">Stem Cell Grant Regulations</a>		<a href="#">Webinars and Workshops</a>
<a href="#">Education</a>			<a href="#">hESC Cell Lines</a>
<a href="#">Previous Funding Opportunities</a>			

**Data Sharing and Management**

- Data Sharing Guidelines
- Data Repository Guidance

# Human Embryo and Embryo Model Research in California

## 1. Regulations – Embryo Research

- CIRM [regulations](#)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Guidelines for Human Stem Cell Research](#)

**“The following activities are not eligible for CIRM funding” / “Activities Not Permitted”**

“(b) The culture in vitro of (i) any intact human embryo ..., after the appearance of the primitive streak or after 12 days whichever is earlier.”

## 2. [CIRM Guidance for Oversight of Human Stem Cell-Based Embryo Models](#)

“...human stem cell-derived embryo models that mimic peri- and post-implantation stages of development. CIRM recommends that:

- (1) protocols involving such models be subject to annual SCRO review and approval...
- (2) the reason for the use of the ... model shall be included in the scientific rationale
- (3) the experimental stopping point should be defined ahead of time and not be open-ended.”

# CIRM hiPSC Repository (2600 lines)

- Repository managed by FUJIFILM Cellular Dynamics
- Diverse ancestries including African, Admixed American (i.e. Hispanic, Native American), East & South Asian, European
- Standardized consents, iPSC derivation and QC testing
- Pre-negotiated license agreement available for commercial use
- SNP genotyping data on almost entire collection and WGS data on 299 lines available



<https://www.fujifilmcdi.com/search-cirm/>



## CIRM Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell Repository

6 Diseases Classes, 17 Diagnoses  
Matched Controls for All Diseases

- Age-Related Macular Degeneration
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Autism Spectrum Disorder
- Cardiomyopathies
- Cerebral Palsy
- Diabetic Retinopathy
- Epilepsy
- Fatty Liver Diseases
- Hepatitis C
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Major Depressive Disorder
- Movement Disorders (ADCY5)
- Optic Nerve Hypoplasia
- Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
- Primary Open Angle Glaucoma
- Pulmonary Fibrosis

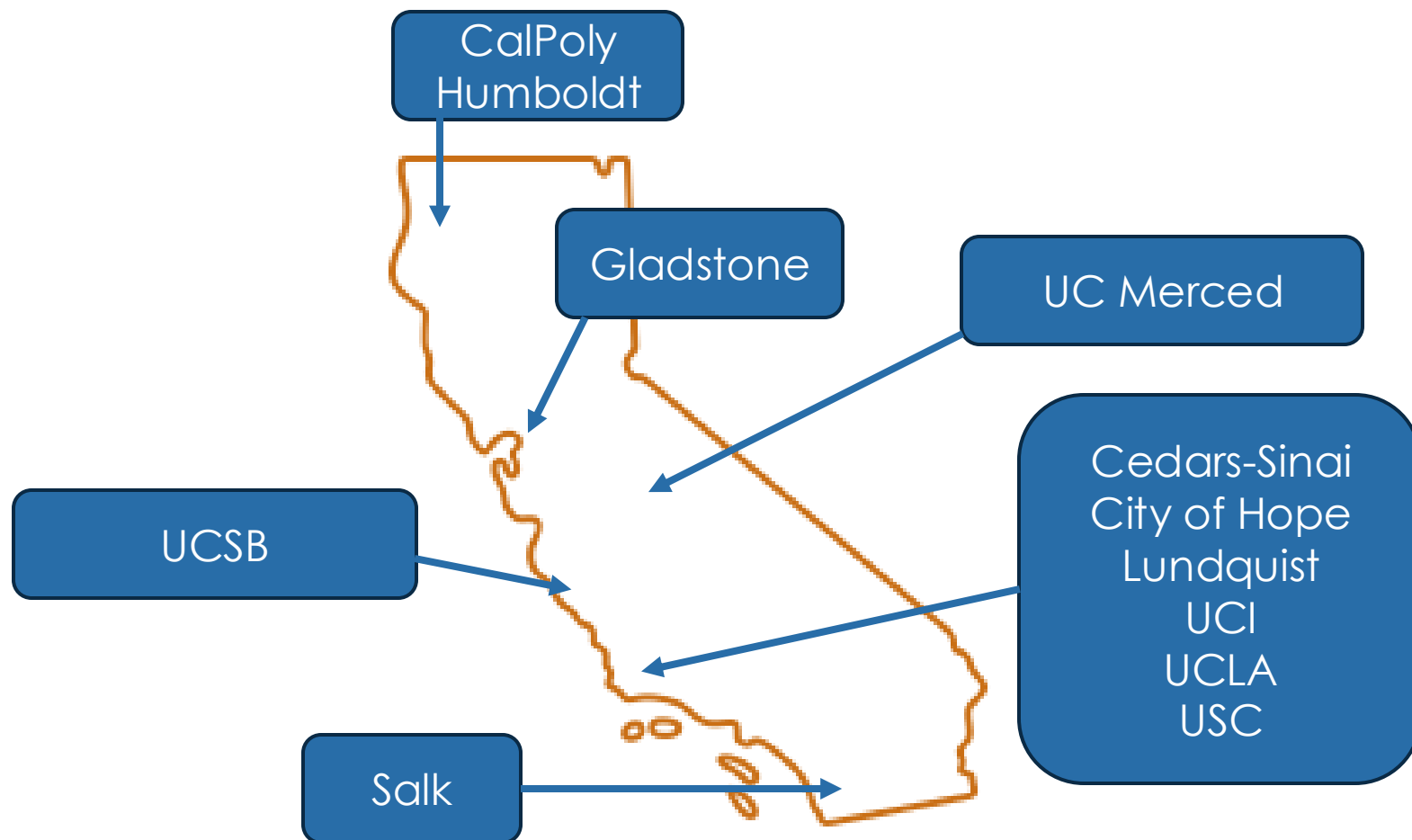
BROWSE NOW

# Shared Resources Labs (SRLs) for Stem Cell-Based Modeling

Infrastructure Program to support California Researchers and Educators by

- Providing access to core facility, specialized services and equipment
- Sharing models/expertise and resources for research **broadly across CA**
- Training researchers
- Providing educational resources / activities
  - Including formal techniques courses

# Shared Resources Labs (SRLs) for Stem Cell-Based Modeling



## Opening for Business

- January 2025
- May/June 2025
- January 2026

Contact:  
[ugrieshammer@cirm.ca.gov](mailto:ugrieshammer@cirm.ca.gov)

# SRLs: Stem Cell-Based Modeling Expertise & Technologies

SRL	Organs / Tissues Modeled (2D, organoids)	Technologies / Services (Also available: omics, CRISPR, imaging, flow cytometry)
Cedars-Sinai	brain, heart, bone, blood, gut, lung, liver	automation, metabolism, <b>organ-on-chip</b>
COH	brain, heart, breast	single cell <b>proteomics</b> , electrophysiology, <b>bioprinting</b> , <b>hypoxic incubators</b>
Gladstone	brain, heart, immune	automated cell culture and imaging, <b>LNP delivery</b> , <b>HTP drug screening</b>
Humboldt	brain	
Lundquist	brain, heart, blood, lung, bone, cartilage, intestine, pancreas	metabolism
Salk	brain (aging)	metabolism, direct reprogramming
UCI		<b>imaging mass cytometry</b> , <b>3D bioprinting</b>
UCLA	brain, skeletal muscle	automated cell culture and imaging, small molecule screening
UCM	vascular	small animal models for stem cell-based model characterization, microfluidic microvascular networks
UCSB	brain, retina, embryo (neuro dev)	<b>HTP drug screening</b> , <b>HTP lenti generation</b> , <b>HTP ELISAs</b>
USC	brain, kidney, intestine, cartilage	electrophysiology

# SRLs: Courses & Workshops

SRL	Courses and other educational opportunities
Cedars-Sinai	Stem Cell Techniques, Advanced Organoid / <b>Organ Chip</b> Training
COH	Stem Cell Techniques & Models
Gladstone	Stem Cell Techniques, <b>Bioinformatics</b> Workshop
Humboldt	Summer Experience, <b>Clinician Professional Development</b>
Lundquist	Stem Cell Techniques
Salk	Stem Cell Techniques, Models of Brain Cell Types to Study Aging
UCI	Stem Cell Techniques, Training <b>Mass Cytometry</b> (Helios/CyTOF), <b>Imaging Mass Cytometry</b> (Hyperion), <b>Bioengineering / Bioprinting</b> Bootcamp
UCLA	Stem Cell Techniques, Basic and Advanced <b>Automation</b> Training
UCM	Stem Cell Techniques, Advanced <b>Characterization of iPSCs In Vivo</b> : Small Animal Imaging
UCSB	Stem Cell Techniques, Integrated <b>Embryo Models (Neural Dev)</b> Workshop
USC	Stem Cell Techniques

# Common Issues



# Common Eligibility Issues

## Projects that:

- Focus on animal biology rather than human; missing human cell validation studies
- Not framed around filling knowledge gap / overcoming bottleneck, even if proposing allowable activities (too “product focused”)
- More appropriate for DISC2, TRAN or CLIN programs
- Not using required template(s) for Uploads
- % PI, co-I effort below allowed minimum

# Common Merit Issues

## Projects that are:

- **Premature**/too exploratory: not enough preliminary data to support rationale or likelihood of impact in the duration of grant
- **Poorly responsive** - unconvincing link to stem cells, regenerative medicine
- **Feasibility** – risks in experimental design; missing expertise on team or uncertain access to necessary tools or resources
- **Poorly written**, difficult to follow (grantsmanship)
- Failure to acknowledge relevant, existing literature
- **Poor DEI Statement**

# Question & Answer