

400 Parnassus Ave, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0138  
Tel: (415) 353-2437  
Fax: (415) 353-2837  
<http://epilepsy.ucsf.edu/>

**Brian K. Alldredge, Pharm D**  
Professor of Pharmacy and Neurology

**Danilo Bernardo, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics

**Susannah Brock Cornes, MD**  
Associate Professor of Neurology

**Paul A. Garcia, MD**  
Professor of Neurology

**Ernesto Gonzalez-Giraldo, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics

**Manu Hegde, MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Neurology

**Heidi Kirsch, MD, MS**  
Professor of Neurology and Radiology

**Jon Kleen, MD, PhD**  
Assistant Adjunct Professor, Neurology

**Robert C. Knowlton, MD, MSPH**  
Professor of Neurology, Radiology, and Neurosurgery

**Brandon Kopald, PsyD ABPP**  
Neuropsychologist & Assistant Clinical Professor

**Daniel H. Lowenstein, MD**  
Professor of Neurology

**Maritza Lopez, NP, MS**  
Epilepsy Nurse Practitioner

**Adam L. Numis, MD**  
Assistant Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics

**Mercedes Paredes, MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Neurology

**Brianna Paul, PhD**  
Neuropsychologist & Assistant Clinical Professor

**Vikram Rao, MD, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Neurology

**Tina T. Shih, MD**  
Professor of Neurology

**Nilika Singhal, MD**  
Associate Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics

**Joseph E. Sullivan, MD**  
Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics

**Nicole Tilton, NP**  
Nurse Practitioner

January 30, 2025

To CIRM Board members:

We wanted to thank the Board members for voicing their strong commitment to the work and the patients and communities in these times. As a researcher and clinician, knowing that leadership and advocates at CIRM are keeping to goals of accessible discovery is encouraging and heartening.

We also want to thank the Board for their feedback and enthusiasm on our grant. We are representing **grant DISC4-16345**. We are a multi-disciplinary team combining novel human in vitro models, cutting-edge gene editing technologies, and functional readouts to better understand disease mechanisms that underlie neurodevelopmental conditions. As was recommended by our initial reviewers, we now focus on 22q syndrome, the most common neurological microdeletion syndrome with severe neuropsychiatric symptoms. This is also a condition that currently has no treatment and limited management for their seizures and behavioral and mental health challenges. As a neurologist, Dr. Paredes works closely with our psychiatry colleagues, and we endeavor to offer more for these patients. Therefore, our final aim is a patient-driven one, where our team will meet with patients and patient advocates to continue to incorporate their feedback and share our advancements for quicker return to the families. This is in keeping with our advocacy for rare disease while keeping the lens of accessibility and outreach embedded in our goals.

We thank you again and look forward to working with all the CIRM community to advance human health.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Paredes, M.D., PhD.  
Associate Professor of Neurology

Kevin Bender, PhD  
Professor of Neurology

Nadav Ahituv, PhD  
Professor of Human Genetics

Roy Ben-Shalom, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Neurology

Young Shin Kim, MD, PhD  
Professor of Psychiatry