

Grants Working Group Recommendations DISCO Foundation Awards



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Review

ICOC

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Our Mission

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



Discovery

Funding early-stage regenerative science

Discovery programs at CIRM support comprehensive discovery research across a diverse range of diseases and bottlenecks that will accelerate the development of potential therapeutics and biomarkers in regenerative medicine.

DISC0 Awards

Objectives & Scope of Foundation (DISC0) Awards

DISC0 projects should culminate in a discovery or technology that would advance (1 or more):

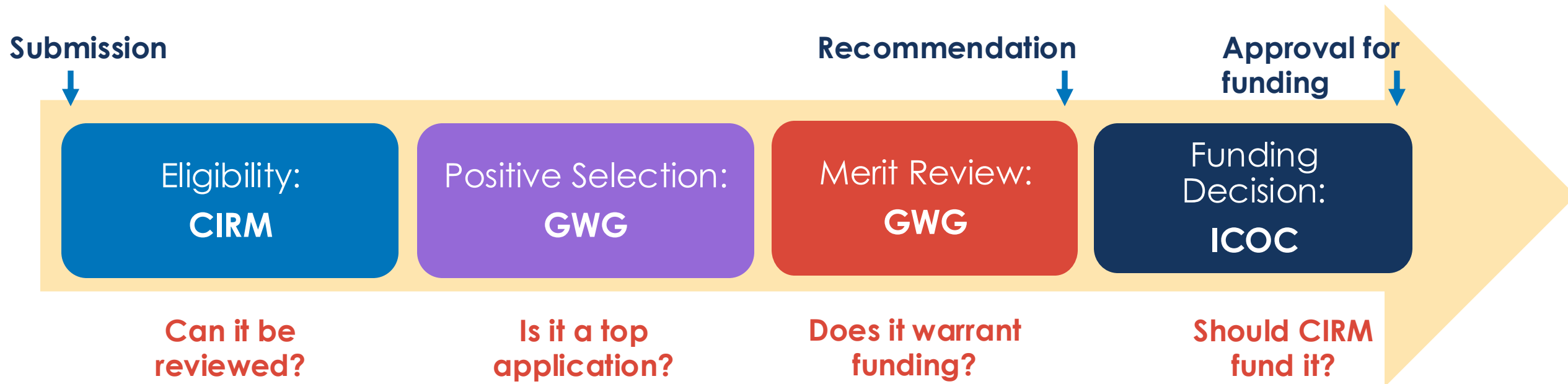
1. Understanding of biology of stem cells that is relevant to human biology and disease,
2. Genetic research relevant to human biology or disease that pertains to stem cells or regenerative medicine,
3. The development of human stem cells as tools for biomedical innovation,
4. Greater applicability of regenerative medicine discoveries to all affected populations.

Program Structure Overview

	Single PI Track	Team Track
Max duration	3 years	3 years
Max budget (Direct project costs)	\$ 1.5 M	\$ 3 M
Applicant Team	Single Principal Investigator Co-Investigators not required	Single Principal Investigator Min 1, Max 2 Co-Investigators
DISC0 25.1 Allocation	\$ 74.2 M total (~ 20 to 25 awards)	

Application and Review Process

Four steps between submission and approval for funding



GWG Panel Composition and Roles

Who participates and how they contribute

Scientific GWG Members



- Positive selection
- Scientific evaluation based on broad subject area or methods expertise
- Enter final scores for **every** application

GWG Board Members



- Positive selection
- Patient perspective on significance and potential impact, oversight on process
- Do not enter scores

Visiting Specialists



- Scientific evaluation based on specialized expertise
- Provide recommended scores in the discussion

DISC0 Foundation Awards

Submission



Eligibility:
CIRM

372
applications
submitted

325
eligible

Positive Selection
Review:
GWG

51
selected by
GWG*

10
bypassed
selection (80-85
score)

Recommendation



Merit Review:
GWG

61
advanced to
discussion by
GWG

Approval for
funding

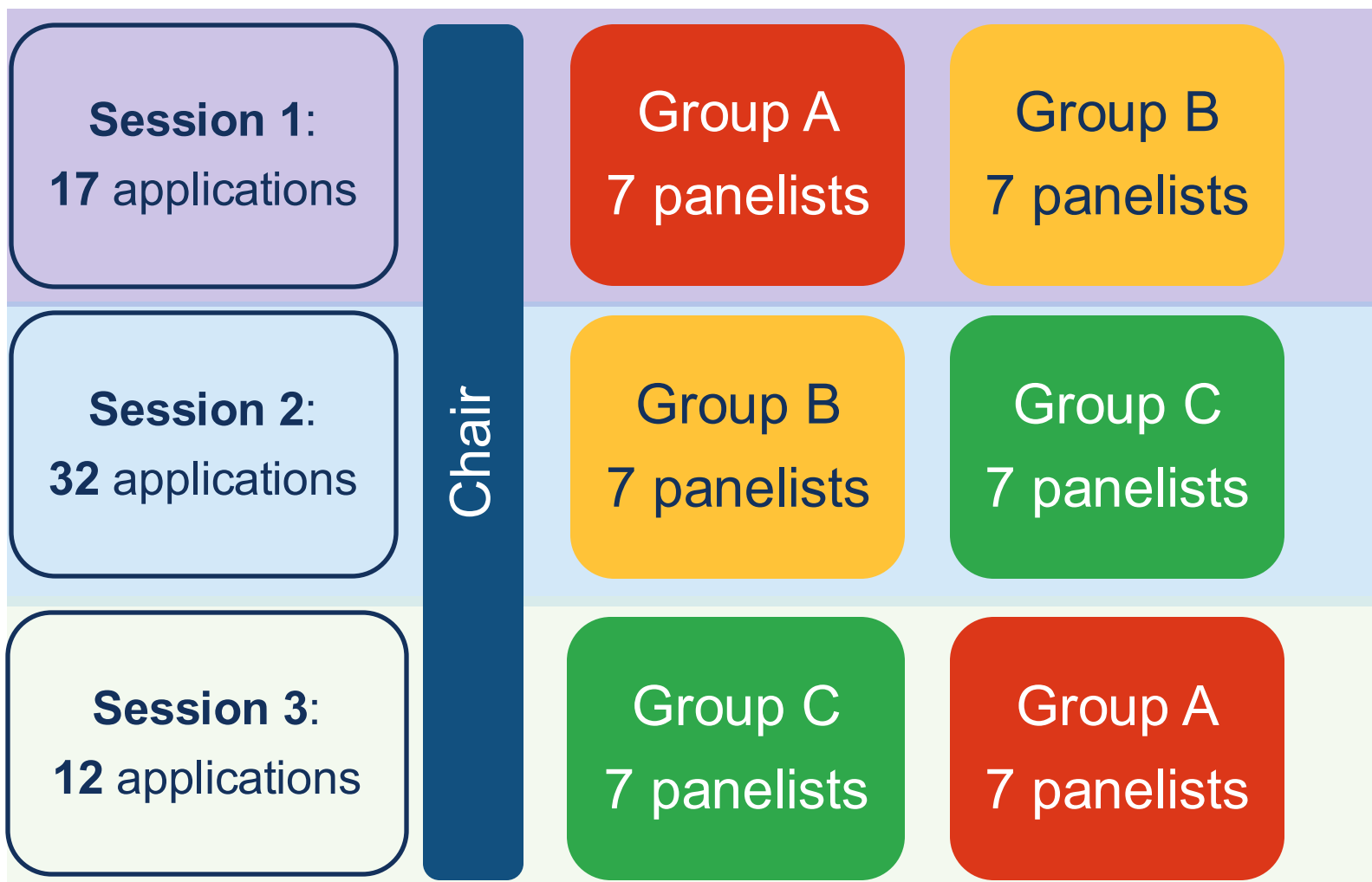


Funding
Decision:
ICOC

25
recommended
by GWG

**For this cycle, we recruited 31 scientists to participate in positive selection.*

DISC0 25.1 Pilot Tri-partite Panel



- The full, tri-partite panel is 21 reviewers plus the Chair.
- The Chair for the meeting moderates (and scores) for all three sessions.
- Panelists (other than the Chair) are parsed into groups A, B, and C.
- Every application has 15 scoring panelists – e.g., Chair (1) + Group A (7) + Group B (7) = Panel (15)
- Panelists can attend the entire review, but will not score every application.

Scoring Scheme

Using the 1 to 100 scale

The final score for an application is the median of GWG scores.

- **Score of 85 to 100:** Application has exceptional merit and warrants funding.
- **Score of 1 to 84:** Application does not warrant funding.

*As this is the last DISCO competition, applications scoring 80 to 84 will **not** bypass a future round of positive selection.*

GWG are encouraged to make full use of the scoring range to signal their enthusiasm for each project.

Review Criteria

What reviewers considered when scoring

1. Does the project hold the necessary significance and potential for impact? (i.e., what value does it offer; is it worth doing?)
 - Do proposed collaborations (particularly for Team Track projects) offer a unique synergy or advantage that augments the potential impact of the project? (i.e., does $1 + 1 = 3$?)
2. Is the rationale sound? (i.e., does it make sense?)
3. Is the project well planned and designed?
4. Is the project feasible? (i.e., can they do it?)
5. Does the project include considerations for maximizing the impact of successful outcomes across affected populations?

GWG Recommendations

Recommendation	Number of Apps	Total Applicant Request	Funds Available
Recommended for funding Score of 85-100	25	\$78,862,290	\$74,200,000
Not recommended for funding Score of 1-84	36		

For each award, the final award amount shall not exceed the amount approved by the ICOC Application Review Subcommittee and may be reduced contingent on CIRM's assessment of allowable costs and activities.

CIRM Team Recommendations

The CIRM Team recommends funding the **top ranking 22 applications** with a **score of 85 or above** and with at least a two-thirds majority recommendation to fund.

In addition, the **CIRM Team recommends funding application DISC0-17507.**

Rationale for selecting DISC0-17507:

- First-time CIRM PI – brings a new investigator into the portfolio.
- Alzheimer's disease/Tau pathology focus – an important mechanism and disease area currently absent in the Discovery portfolio.
- Feasible budget – fits within the available allocation when added to the 22 applications above the line.

The total funds requested for the **23 applications** is **\$73,327,567**

Minority Reports

- Under Prop 14, any application that is not recommended for funding by the GWG, but which had 35% or more members score to fund the application must include a minority report.
- The minority report is included in the review summary and provides a brief synopsis of the opinion of reviewers that scored the application 85 or above.

Applications with Minority Report

App Number	Title	Funds Requested	Score
DISC0-17822	Role of stem-like T cells in autoimmune diseases	\$4,603,793	83

The CIRM Team supports the majority position to not fund application DISC0-17822.