



**RESOLUTION NUMBER 2025-09**  
**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**  
**OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE**  
**HONORING DAVID HIGGINS, PHD, FOR HIS SERVICE TO**  
**THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE,**  
**STEM CELL RESEARCH, AND CALIFORNIA PATIENTS**

WHEREAS, David Higgins received his PhD in Molecular Biology and Genetics from the University of Rochester, New York, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute;

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served in drug development and business operations capacities at multiple biotech companies such as Invitrogen, Chiron, Idun Pharmaceuticals, eventually serving as Head of US Operations for BioMedica, Inc., a company which has been developing a genetic therapy to treat Parkinson's;

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served as an Adjunct Associate Professor of Biology at San Diego State University and as an Instructor for the Biotechnology Technician Training program at San Diego City College;

WHEREAS, David Higgins is well known for his advocacy for those with Parkinson's disease as well as their caregivers/care partners, using his personal experience to: raise awareness for the social, biomedical, and economic benefits of developing new treatments and a cure for Parkinson's; provide education, training, support, and networking; help improve quality of life; and promote research to ultimately find a cure;

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served as California Assistant State Director of the Parkinson's Action Network, which lobbies elected officials on policies regarding Parkinson's research and treatment;

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served as Vice President of the Board of Directors for the Parkinson's Association in San Diego,

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served as California Assistant State Director of the Parkinson's Action Network;

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served in various advisory capacities, such as to iDiverse, a gene technology company in Del Mar;

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served on other boards, such as the Center for Ethics in Science and Technology;

WHEREAS, David Higgins was appointed to the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) in 2014 by California State Controller John Chiang—an appointment welcomed by the Parkinson's community, given David's reputation for being patient, thoughtful, extremely intelligent and a great leader—and reappointed in 2021 by Betty Yee to fill the role of a patient advocate representing the Parkinson's disease group;

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served as a dedicated member of the Scientific and Medical Research Funding Working Group, the Scientific and Medical Research Facilities Working Group, and the Accessibility and Affordability Working Group, leveraging his knowledge of California, patient communities, and scientific/medical research in conducting grant reviews and in providing recommendations to the board;

WHEREAS, David Higgins has served as a committed member of the ICOC's Application Review Subcommittee, Communications Subcommittee, Science Subcommittee, the Task Force for Neuroscience and Medicine, vocal in his support of CIRM funding good science and safe and efficacious treatments, as well as in CIRM having a consistent focus and message;

WHEREAS, David Higgins—through his stalwart commitment to advocating for those who have been affected by Parkinson's disease; through his training in molecular biology and experience in the biotechnology industry underpinning his reviews and recommendations; through his dedication to ensuring discretionary responsibility towards identifying and nurturing the most promising projects across all target diseases in order to serve all people of California—has contributed greatly to the momentum of discovery and the future therapies which will be the ultimate outcome of the dedicated work of the researchers receiving CIRM funding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, on behalf of the people of the State of California, wishes to express its deepest gratitude to David Higgins for his service on CIRM's Governing Board and for his dedication to the advancement of stem cell research and to the mission of CIRM to accelerate world class science to deliver transformative regenerative medicine treatments in an equitable manner to a diverse California and world.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman, Governing Board  
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine