



December 5, 2025

Subject: Letter of support regarding application PDEV-19149

Dear Members of the Application Review Subcommittee,

I am writing to express my strongest support for Savanna Biotherapeutics' CIRM PDEV application. My name is Heidi Edwards, and I am the Founder and President of the Sisters' Hope Foundation, a global advocacy organization dedicated to supporting individuals with Adult-Onset Leukoencephalopathy with Axonal Spheroids and Pigmented Glia (ALSP) and their families.

There are currently no therapeutic options for ALSP patients.

ALSP profoundly affects patients in California, as it does across the nation, and our organization is committed to advancing research that can bring urgently needed therapeutic options to this community. Recent estimates indicate that more than 10,000 patients in California alone could be impacted.

Savanna has demonstrated a uniquely thoughtful and proactive approach to identifying the right patients for future clinical trials. A substantial portion of their development effort has been concentrated in California—meeting directly with families, engaging local clinicians, and collaborating with California-based partners—to ensure their program is grounded in real patient experiences. Their commitment to building strong relationships in California not only supports the state's ALSP community but also accelerates the translation of their microglia therapy toward the clinic. This focus on early patient identification and regional partnership is essential for a ALSP's disease program and directly aligns with CIRM's mission.

As Savanna advances its microglia cell therapy toward first-in-human studies, the Sisters' Hope Foundation is prepared to continue supporting their efforts by engaging families, facilitating education, and ensuring that patient voices guide the development process. Their scientific progress, combined with their consistent commitment to our community, gives us real hope for a therapeutic option that addresses the underlying biology of ALSP.

We are grateful for CIRM's ongoing commitment to ALSP research and strongly encourage continued investment in Savanna's program. CIRM's support is critical to helping this promising therapy reach clinical trials and, ultimately, the patients who urgently need it.

Thank you for your consideration and for your dedication to advancing treatments for devastating neurodegenerative diseases.

Sincerely,

Heidi L. Edwards
President & Founder
Sisters' Hope Foundation
heidi@sistershopefoundation.org