

**From:** Raj Batra <drrajbatra@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 11:13 AM  
**To:** Lana Moralez <lmoralez@cirm.ca.gov>, David E. Jensen <djensen@californiastemcellreport.com>  
**Subject:** [EXT] Fwd: Misunderstanding, Perception Problems, Anxiety Reported by California Stem Cell/Gene Therapy Program

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Ms Moralez;

You've inherited a problem rooted within the politics of Academia, and the Peer-reviewers put forth by academia.

What you need to do is to replace the academia interests (members of the board affiliated or representative of Universities) with respect to peer review and CIRM priorities with someone who's apathetic or with antipathy to their concerns.

I am certainly one of them, given that I was blocked from advancing Globally leading scientific programs to target epithelial malignancy through CIRM support; prospects denied simply on the whim of a [REDACTED] (Owen Witte) through his influence on the board and research priorities. But there are plenty of other translational physician scientists with integrity and purpose, and without close ties to members of CIRM-Board working in California. You simply need to find them and heed their unsolicited advice.

Sincerely;  
Raj K Batra M.D.