



March 25th, 2026

To
APPLICATION REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE AND
INDEPENDENT CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
Organized Pursuant To The
CALIFORNIA STEM CELL RESEARCH, TREATMENTS, AND CURES INITIATIVE OF 2020
Via Email

Honorable Committee Members:

As a proud resident of California, and leader for our patient community organization, it is with eagerness that we champion the work of Professor Aaron Gitler and Colleagues with his base of operations in our great state. Dr Gitler has been recognized as a leading contributor to mechanistic understandings of ALS pathology which hold great promise for transformational disease modulation. As an organization by and for those impacted by inherited or genetic ALS and FTD the solving for these biological underpinnings of ALS and FTD is of existential importance to us.

Up to 1 in 1000 people have a genetic predisposition for ALS and FTD meaning our population of asymptomatic but at great risk relatives are the largest reservoir of potentially treatable people in California as we all strive to prevent the manifest symptoms of these horrible diseases rather than just treat them when disabilities have settled in.

The proposal you are considering from Dr Gitler et al is DISC4-19196, "Reprogramming the Spatial Transcriptome for Precision Neurodegenerative Therapies." We urge you to fund this novel and potentially groundbreaking work.

With appreciation,

Jean Swidler
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