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Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) List of Members and Bios

CIRM is governed by the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC), which is composed of up to 35 Californians with expertise in: (1) managing large research grants and complex institutions and conducting cutting edge medical research; (2) understanding the critical path for the development of successful experimental medical treatments and directing the approval process through the Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory bodies and ethical committees; and (3) advocating on behalf of Californians who suffer from a variety of chronic diseases and injuries.

Click on a CIRM board member's name below to read their bio:

Name	Affiliation	ICOC Position	Appointed by
Eyad Almasri, MD *Assistant Dean for Research*	University of California San Francisco, Fresno	An executive officer from the UC	Appointed by a UC Chancellor
Kim Barrett, PhD *Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine*	University of California, Davis	An executive officer from the UC	Appointed by a UC Chancellor
Dan Bernal *Vice Chancellor, Community and Government Relations*	University of California San Francisco	Patient Advocate, HIV/AIDS	Appointed by the California Senate President Pro Tempore
George Blumenthal, PhD *Chancellor Emeritus*	University of California, Santa Cruz	An executive officer from a California University	Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
Maria Bonneville *ICOC Vice-Chair*	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	Vice-Chair of the Governing Board of CIRM	Statutory: elected pursuant to Health & Safety Code, section 125290.20(a)(7)
Linda Boxer, MD, PhD *Vice Dean, School of Medicine*	Stanford University	An executive officer from a California University	Appointed by the Controller
John Carethers, MD *Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences*	University of California, San Diego	An executive officer from the UC	Appointed by a UC Chancellor

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Name	Affiliation	ICOC Position	Appointed by
Marguerite Casillas, MA *Member*	National Multiple Sclerosis Society and iConquerMS	Patient Advocate, Multiple Sclerosis	Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
Judy Chou, PhD *Chief Executive Officer*	AltruBio, Inc.	An executive officer of a Commercial Life Science Entity	Appointed by the Treasurer
Le Ondra Clark Harvey, PhD *Chief Executive Officer*	California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies	Patient Advocate, Mental Health	Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
Shannon Dahl, PhD *Founder and CEO*	Carve Bio	An executive officer of a Commercial Life Science Entity	Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
Deborah Deas, MD, MPH *Dean and CEO of Clinical Affairs, School of Medicine*	University of California, Riverside	An executive officer from the UC	Appointed by a UC Chancellor
Anne-Marie Duliege, MD *Deputy Director*	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	An executive officer of a Commercial Life Science Entity	Appointed by the Controller
Ysabel Duron *Founder and Chair*	Latinos Contra Cancer	Patient Advocate, Cancer	Appointed by the Controller
Mark Fischer Colbrie, MBA *Member*	Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF)	Patient Advocate, Type I Diabetes	Appointed by the Treasurer
Elena Flowers, PhD, RN *Professor, Physiological Nursing*	University of California, San Francisco	Nurse with clinical trial/stem cell or genetic therapy delivery	Appointed by the Controller
Judith Gasson, PhD *Professor of Medicine Hem-Onc, Director (Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center), Emerita and Senior Advisor for Research and Innovation in the David Geffen School of Medicine*	University of California, Los Angeles	An executive officer from the UC	Appointed by a UC Chancellor

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Name	Affiliation	ICOC Position	Appointed by
Vito Imbasciani, MD, PhD *ICOC Chair*	California Institute for Regenerative Medicine	Chair of the ICOC, Governing Board of CIRM	Statutory: elected pursuant to Health & Safety Code, section 125290.20(a)(7)
Rich Lajara *Patient Ambassador*	Americans for Cures	Patient Advocate, Spinal Cord Injury	Appointed by the Governor
Pat Levitt, PhD *Chief Scientific Officer, Vice President and Director*	Children's Hospital Los Angeles	An executive officer from a California Research Institute	Appointed by the Controller
Hala Madanat, PhD, MS *Vice President for Research and Innovation*	San Diego State University	An executive officer from a California University	Appointed by the Governor
Linda Malkas, PhD *Deputy Director of the City of Hope's Comprehensive Cancer Center*	City of Hope	An executive officer from a California Research Institute	Appointed by the Treasurer
Shlomo Melmed, MD *Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs & Dean of the Medical Faculty*	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center	An executive officer from a California Research Institute	Appointed by the Governor
Carolyn Meltzer, MD *Dean, Keck School of Medicine*	University of Southern California	An executive officer from a California Research Institute	Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
Christine Miaskowski, RN, PhD, FAAN *Emeritus Professor and Vice Chair for Research*	University of California, San Francisco	Nurse with clinical trial/stem cell or genetic therapy delivery	Appointed by the Treasurer
Adriana Padilla, MD *Physician*	Community Medical Providers	Patient Advocate, Type II Diabetes	Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor
Joe Panetta *President Emeritus*	BioCom	An executive officer from a Commercial Life Science Entity	Appointed by the Governor
Shauna Stark, MS *Assistant Dean for Research and Chief of Staff*	University of California, Irvine	An executive officer from the UC	Appointed by a UC Chancellor

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Name	Affiliation	ICOC Position	Appointed by
Marvin Southard, DSW *Founding Partner*	Capstone Solutions Consulting Group	Patient Advocate, Mental Health	Appointed by the Governor
Karol Watson, MD, PhD, FACC *Professor of Medicine/Cardiology*	University of California, Los Angeles I American Heart Association	Patient Advocate, Heart Disease	Appointed by the Treasurer
Yael Wyte, MSW *Program & Education Manager*	Alzheimer's Association, California Southland Chapter	Patient Advocate, Alzheimer's Disease	Appointed by the Governor
Kevin Xu *Chief Executive Officer*	MEBO International	Patient Advocate, Mental Health	Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly
Keith Yamamoto, PhD *Vice Chancellor, Science Policy and Strategy*	University of California, San Francisco	An executive officer from the UC	Appointed by a UC Chancellor
Open Seat		An executive officer from a California University	Appointed by the Treasurer
Open Seat		Patient Advocate, Parkinson's Disease	Appointed by the Controller

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Alternate ICOC Members

Any Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) member who is an executive officer of a California university, a nonprofit research institution or life science commercial entity may appoint an executive officer of the entity or a dean of the medical school as their alternate.

Click on a CIRM board member's name below to read their bio:

Alternate Member	ICOC Member	Institution
Donald Taylor, PhD, MBA, CLP *Chief Ventures Officer of UC Davis Health*	**Kim Barrett, PhD** *Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine*	University of California, Davis
Joyce Sackey, MD, FACP *Chief Community Engagement Officer*	**Linda Boxer, MD, PhD** *Vice Dean for Stanford University School of Medicine*	Stanford University
Monica Carson, PhD *Professor and Chair of Biomedical Sciences S. Sue Johnson Presidential Endowed Chair*	**Deborah Deas, MD, MPH** *Dean and CEO of Clinical Affairs, School of Medicine*	University of California, Riverside
Stephen Smale, PhD *Acting Vice Dean for Research*	**Judy Gasson, PhD** *Professor of Medicine Hem-Onc, Director (Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center)*	University of California, Los Angeles
Jeffrey Golden, MD *Executive Vice Dean, Research and Education*	**Shlomo Melmed, MD** *Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs & Dean of the Medical Faculty*	Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Suzanne Sandmeyer, PhD *Director, Genomics Research & Technology Hub*	**Shauna Stark, MS** *Assistant Dean for Research and Chief of Staff*	University of California, Irvine
Harold Collard, MD, MS *Vice Chancellor for Research, Vice Chancellor Research Professor of Medicine and Health Policy*	**Keith Yamamoto, PhD** *Vice Chancellor, Science Policy and Strategy*	University of California, San Francisco

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Eyad Almasri, MD

University of California San Francisco, Fresno
Assistant Dean for Research
An executive officer from the UC
Appointed by a UC Chancellor

Eyad Almasri, MD, is the Assistant Dean for Research at University of California San Francisco, Fresno campus. He is also a Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine – pulmonary and critical care and sleep medicine, Medical Director of the Intensive Care Unit at Fresno Community Regional Medical Center, and member of the Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation or ECMO team.

Dr. Almasri has expertise in treating sleep apnea, pneumonia, asthma, among other conditions. His research includes studies on acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and COVID-19, and lead UCSF Fresno in building COVID-19 research during the pandemic. As Assistant Dean, he hopes to increase the involvement of residents and fellows in research projects at UCSF Fresno, make research opportunities available to more students (i.e. medical, high school and undergraduates), researchers at other institutions and possibly community members and ensure that UCSF Fresno tackles issues that local people care about like air quality and valley fever.

Dr. Almasri earned his medical degree at Damascus Medical School at Damascus University in Syria and completed residencies in Internal Medicine at Damascus University Hospitals and University of Pittsburgh, Shadyside Hospital. He also completed his fellowship in Critical Care at University of Pittsburgh and his fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine at Western Pennsylvania Hospital, and has a Diplomate in Sleep Medicine from American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM).

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Kim Barrett, PhD

University of California, Davis
Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine
An executive officer from the UC
Appointed by a UC Chancellor

Kim Elaine Barrett, PhD, is the vice dean for research and distinguished professor of physiology and membrane biology at the UC Davis School of Medicine. Barrett is advancing an innovative vision for the future of research at the School of Medicine that emphasizes collaboration to transform health. She is responsible for implementing key initiatives and fostering partnerships across UC Davis Health and with other schools, centers, and colleagues throughout UC Davis. Barrett also leads the medical school's collaborative efforts to develop UC Davis' Aggie Square research program.

Barrett joined UC Davis Health in 2021 with more than 30 years of notable scientific research and institutional leadership experience. Immediately prior to UC Davis, Barrett was a distinguished professor of medicine at UC San Diego and director of the division of graduate education at the National Science Foundation. She has received numerous honors and awards for her research, teaching, mentoring, and service activities. Barrett is also an internationally recognized scholar in gastrointestinal physiology and has published extensively.

She has received numerous awards for her academic contributions as well as her teaching, administrative skills, and mentoring. These include the 2021 Distinguished Achievement Award for Basic Science from the American Gastroenterological Association.

Barrett is originally from the United Kingdom and earned both her BSc (Medicinal Chemistry, 1979) and her PhD (Biological Chemistry, 1982) from University College, London, England.

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Dan Bernal

University of California, San Francisco
Vice Chancellor for Community and Government Relations
Patient Advocate, HIV/AIDS
Appointed by the California Senate President Pro Tempore

Dan Bernal is the Vice Chancellor for Government and Community Relations at the University of California, San Francisco.

Bernal, who was appointed to the Board by California Senate President Pro Tem Toni Atkins, has dedicated his career to public service. Prior to UCSF, he served as Chief of Staff for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and also served as President of the San Francisco Health Commission. Before joining Pelosi's staff in 2002, he served at the White House under President Bill Clinton and with U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley in Washington, D.C. As President of the San Francisco Health Commission, which oversees the Department of Public Health, Bernal has worked to advance the Getting to Zero initiative to reduce HIV deaths, infections, and stigma and to address persistent health disparities among vulnerable populations.

Bernal also has a long history of advocacy and activism in the fight against HIV/AIDS. He served as Board President of the AIDS Emergency Fund and on the Boards of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. He has raised more than $250,000 for AIDS/LifeCycle—an annual 7-day, 545-bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles—and was instrumental in returning the AIDS Memorial Quilt to its permanent home in the Bay Area, where it was originally conceived in 1985.

As a person living with HIV for more than 30 years, Bernal knows firsthand the importance of developing new treatments for patients with life-threatening illnesses. He is grateful for the opportunity to help advance the discovery of groundbreaking therapies and potential cures for HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases and to ensure more Californians have access to affordable, life-changing medical treatments.

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George Blumenthal, PhD

University of California, Santa Cruz
Chancellor Emeritus
An executive officer from a California University
Appointed by Lieutenant Governor

George R. Blumenthal is UC Santa Cruz's 10th chancellor. He first joined the campus in 1972 as a faculty member in astronomy and astrophysics and was named chancellor on September 19, 2007, after serving as acting chancellor for 14 months. He was nominated to the CIRM governing Board in February 2017 by Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom.

UC Santa Cruz is a top-ranked young university and has become a first-choice destination for a growing number of high school graduates. Since the fall of 2007, the number of applicants for undergraduate admission has doubled from 24,400 annually to nearly 49,000 in 2013.

The Blumenthal era has been marked by a commitment to ensuring that the doors of opportunity at UC Santa Cruz are open to all:

- The number of undergraduate students from underrepresented minorities has increased by 50 percent since Blumenthal took office.
- Nearly half of the entering class in 2013 received Pell Grants, the federal financial aid given to the neediest students—exceeding the UC average of 42 percent.
- The percentage of entering frosh who are "first-generation" college students—who will be the first in their family to earn a four-year degree—now regularly tops 40 percent.

Chancellor Blumenthal has overseen the expansion of both undergraduate and graduate programs. New undergraduate degrees include Cognitive Science, Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Jewish Studies, Network and Digital Technology, Physics Education, Robotics Engineering, and Spanish Studies. New doctoral programs include Feminist Studies, Film and Digital Media, Latin American and Latino Studies, and Visual Studies; new master's programs include Games and Playable Media, Technology and Information Management, and Theater Arts.

Under Chancellor Blumenthal's leadership, the campus in 2013 launched its first comprehensive fundraising campaign, The Campaign for UC Santa Cruz. He has presided over significant growth in research funding, from $100 million in 2006 to $130 million in 2013. UC Santa Cruz has emerged as one of the top five institutions in the country that saw a notable increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health in the past decade, almost doubling from $15 million in 2000 to nearly $30 million in 2013.

The campus's physical profile has been dramatically transformed during Blumenthal's tenure as chancellor. Major new buildings that have opened include the Digital Arts Research Center, the Physical Sciences Building, the Humanities and Social Sciences Facility, the Biomedical Sciences Building, and the Emergency Response Center. Other major projects include the renovation and expansion of McHenry Library, the Cowell Student Health Center, Porter College, and Merrill College. In total, the campus has added nearly 600,000 square feet of new space since Blumenthal took office.

Sustainability has been a top priority of Chancellor Blumenthal's, and he has championed water and energy conservation, recycling, locally sourced and organically grown food, and greenhouse-gas reduction. In 2014, the campus used scarcely more water than in 1994, despite having nearly 7,000 more students. In 2012, the chancellor signed the Real Food Campus Commitment, pledging that 40 percent of all food purchases will be food produced in a fair, humane, and sustainable manner by 2020.

In Santa Cruz, Chancellor Blumenthal is widely credited with ushering in a new era of cooperation in town-gown relations with the signing in 2008 of a historic settlement agreement that resolved litigation over water, housing, traffic, and city services. Signed by the campus, the city and county of Santa Cruz, and neighborhood groups, the agreement has become a model for other universities and communities. Campus departments and municipal agencies now collaborate on a range of issues, including planning, water, and transportation, and the campus and city fire departments were consolidated in 2014.

Blumenthal's appointment as chancellor followed many years as a distinguished professor, researcher, and campus leader. As a theoretical astrophysicist, Chancellor Blumenthal made pathbreaking contributions to our understanding of the origin of structure in the universe, including galaxies and clusters of galaxies, and to the role that dark matter plays in the formation and evolution of this structure. He is a co-author of 21st Century Astronomy and Understanding Our Universe.

As a senior leader in the University of California system, Blumenthal spearheaded the successful effort to redress past inequalities in per-student state funding of some UC campuses, known as "rebenching." He served as chair of the UC Academic Senate (2004-05), was the faculty representative to the UC Regents (2003-05), chaired the UC Santa Cruz division of the Academic Senate (2001-03), and served as chair of the UCSC Astronomy and Astrophysics Department.

In 2010, Blumenthal received the Oliver Johnson Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate, the top UC honor for service at both the systemwide and campus levels. A vocal advocate for staff throughout the university, he received the Outstanding

Senior Leadership Award from the Council of University of California Staff Assemblies (CUCSA) in 2012; he has been an honorary member of CUCSA since 2005.

Chancellor Blumenthal serves widely on many governing boards, including as vice chairman of the California Association for Research in Astronomy, which oversees the W. M. Keck Observatory on the summit of Mauna Kea, Hawaii. He is also a board member of Joint Venture Silicon Valley and the Silicon Valley Leadership Group.

He earned his bachelor of science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and his Ph.D. in physics at the University of California, San Diego. In 2011, he was awarded an honorary Ph.D. in astrophysics and leadership in higher education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

He is married to Kelly Weisberg (see her biography), a professor of law at UC Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. They have two adult children.

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Maria Gonzalez Bonneville

Vice Chair of the ICOC, Governing Board

Maria Bonneville is the Vice Chair of the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC) at CIRM. She serves as the Chair of the Accessibility and Affordability Working Group (AAWG), a group charged with providing recommendations to the ICOC to explore and develop affordability strategies to enhance the accessibility of CIRM-funded treatments and clinical trials, including reimbursement for patient-qualified costs. In addition to her Chair and Vice Chair roles, she leads government relations efforts for the Agency, collaborating with California legislators to keep the public informed about CIRM's activities, and she participates in all board subcommittees and working groups. Since joining CIRM in 2011, she has held various leadership positions, including Vice President of Board Governance and Public Outreach and Vice President of Administration.

Before her tenure at CIRM, Maria accumulated over a decade of experience in state government, holding multiple key positions. As the Special Assistant to former Treasurer Bill Lockyer at the California State Treasurer's Office, she represented the Treasurer in matters involving state and local governments, as well as the business community in the Bay Area. Maria also served as the Northern California Finance Director for the Lockyer Committee, managing major fundraising programs during the California Attorney General re-election campaign. Additionally, she brings extensive expertise in product development, marketing, and public relations.

Maria received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Sciences from the University of California Berkeley. She serves on the Moving Day Planning Committee of the Parkinson's Foundation in San Francisco.

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Linda Boxer, MD, PhD

Stanford University School of Medicine
Vice Dean for Stanford University School of Medicine
An executive officer from a California University
Appointed by Controller

Linda M. Boxer, MD, PhD, is the Vice Dean of Stanford University School of Medicine and the Stanley McCormick Memorial Professor in the School of Medicine. Dr. Boxer obtained her MD and PhD degrees at Stanford University. She was an intern and resident in internal medicine at Stanford and then did a hematology/oncology fellowship at Stanford.

She joined the faculty at Stanford in the Division of Hematology, Department of Medicine, and also had a position at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System. Dr. Boxer's laboratory investigated the mechanisms of deregulated expression of oncogenes by translocation into the immunoglobulin locus in B cells lymphomas. She has a clinical practice in hematology with an interest in hematologic malignancies. From 2004 to 2017 she was the Chief of the Division of Hematology.

She was the director of the Clinical Investigator Pathway (the ABIM research pathway) in the Department of Medicine and the hematology fellowship director for eight years. She has trained and mentored many physicians and physician scientists during this time and helped with their development into independent investigators.

Dr. Boxer was the Interim Chair of the Department of Medicine for two years, and she was the Senior Vice Chair of the Department of Medicine for one year. She has been the Vice Dean of the School of Medicine since September 2013.

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John Carethers, MD

University of California, San Diego
Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences
An executive officer from a UC
Appointed by a UC Chancellor

John Carethers, MD became the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences at UC San Diego in January 2023, overseeing UC San Diego Health along with the School of Medicine, School of Public Health and School of Pharmaceutical Sciences to integrate, grow, and expand the missions of clinical excellence, education, discovery, and community engagement.

He obtained his MD from Wayne State, followed by residency in internal medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Michigan. He served as Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan from 2009 through 2022. Dr. Carethers is a trained gastroenterologist and physician-scientist who focuses his research in the area of hereditary colon cancer genetics and colon cancer disparities publishing over 250 manuscripts and book chapters. He has been continuously funded by the NIH for nearly 30 years. His work has focused on DNA mismatch repair function that drives post-replicative repair of DNA. He served as Senior Associate Editor for *Gastroenterology*, completed a 2-year appointment on the National Commission for Digestive Diseases, and currently serves on the NIDDK Advisory Council. He is the immediate past President of the American Gastroenterological Association, past President of the Association of American Physicians, and is currently on the Board of Directors of AACR. He is a member of the US National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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Marguerite Casillas, MA

National Multiple Sclerosis Society and iConquerMS
Member
Patient Advocate, Multiple Sclerosis
Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor

Marguerite Casillas is a former Senior Vice President of Corporate Communications at Wells Fargo, with experience in communications, strategic planning, technology platform management, operations management, project management, risk management, and research and measurement.

Since retiring in 2022, she has focused on high-level volunteer advocacy work in Washington D.C. and California, partnering with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the American Association of People with Disabilities to urge lawmakers to support people with chronic illnesses and disabilities.

As a member of the MS Society's California Government Relations Advisory Committee, she meets regularly with Society staff and other activists to review pending legislation and determine prioritization of issues for the broader community of MS Society activists in California.

Marguerite is also a member of the Research Committee of iConquerMS, an initiative led by people living with MS to advance research and improve the lives of those in the MS community.

Marguerite has lived with MS since 2003 and has participated in multiple MS clinical trials and studies since her diagnosis. She also has direct experience with Parkinson's disease–her mother, maternal uncle and maternal grandfather were all diagnosed with Parkinson's.

Marguerite has a bachelor's degree in communications from Stanford University and recently completed a master's degree in Disability Studies from City University of New York (CUNY). She lives with her partner in Berkeley, CA.

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Judy Chou, PhD

AltruBio Inc.
President and CEO
Executive Officer of a Commercial Life Science Entity
Appointed by the State Treasurer

Judy Chou, PhD, is the President, CEO, and member of the Board of Directors of AltruBio, Inc., a clinical-stage biotech company focused on developing novel therapeutics for the treatment of immunological and inflammatory diseases.

Dr. Chou has more than 25 years of experience in drug development and biomanufacturing. Before joining AltruBio she headed the global Biotech organization at Bayer Pharmaceuticals. At Bayer she oversaw the development, manufacturing, and distribution of the company's more than $3 billion product portfolio. She also oversaw more than 2,000 employees and led the drug development and launch activities for the biologics pipeline. In addition, she also served as the site head for Bayer's facility in Berkeley, California, the company's largest manufacturing site in the U.S.

Dr. Chou has also had leadership roles at Pfizer, Medivation Inc., Genentech, and Wyeth Biopharma. She has won several awards and, in 2018, was the recipient of the Most Influential Women in Business award by the San Francisco Business Times. She is currently an advisor at the UC Berkeley Engineering School and is working to promote diversity and inclusion through her advisory board position at Silicon Valley Women in Engineering.

Dr. Chou obtained her PhD at Yale, her post-doctoral training at the Max-Planck Institute in Germany, and was a research faculty member at Harvard University Medical School focusing on cell biology and neuroscience.

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Le Ondra Clark Harvey, PhD

California Behavioral Health Association
Chief Executive Officer
Patient Advocate, Mental Health
Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor

Dr. Clark Harvey is a psychologist and the Chief Executive Officer of the California Behavioral Health Association (CBHA). CBHA is a statewide advocacy organization representing behavioral health agencies and businesses that collectively serve over two million Californians. She also serves as the Executive of the Behavioral Health Innovation Institute and the California Access Coalition. Dr. Clark Harvey has previously served as Chief Consultant to the California State Assembly Committee on Business and Professions and Principal Consultant to the Senate Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development.

Prior to her work within the California Legislature, she completed her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She completed her pre-doctoral fellowship at the University of Southern California Children's Hospital Los Angeles and a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California, Los Angeles Mattel Children's Hospital.

Dr. Clark Harvey has maintained an impressive record of leadership including serving on national and local boards including the National Council of Mental Wellbeing, American Psychological Association, Child Welfare League of America Mental Health Advisory Board, Association of Black Psychologists, CalNonProfits, Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board and the Sacramento County Children's Coalition. Dr. Clark Harvey has received numerous local and national awards. In 2020, she was appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to his Master Plan on Aging Advisory Committee and is an appointee to the California Department of Aging's Disability and Aging Community Living Advisory Committee. She was appointed by California Lieutenant Governor, Eleni Kounalakis, to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Board and by the federal Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Advisory Committee for Women's Services.

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Shannon Dahl, PhD

Carve Bio
Founder and CEO
Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor

Shannon Dahl, PhD, is a renowned leader in the biotechnology industry, known for her unique ability to drive innovation from early-stage research into the clinic and through to commercialization, while building companies. As the Founder and current CEO of Carve Bio, Shannon has provided fractional C-suite leadership and strategic business advisory services to a portfolio of therapeutics companies. She has inspired teams to drive projects from early-stage research to successful INDs and clinical trials, into partnerships and pipelines, to clear paths to commercialization and reimbursement, and to navigate company growth and pivots.

Shannon's dedication to fostering innovation and strategic growth has made her a sought-after leader in the biotechnology sector. Her expertise in crafting translational strategies, scientific datasets for regulators and investors, strategic pipelines and partnerships, reimbursement strategies, demonstrating value propositions for a range of stakeholders, and navigating company growth decisions have enabled the companies she has served to secure over $500M in funding to advance therapeutics.

Prior to Carve Bio, Shannon co-founded and built Humacyte (NASDAQ: HUMA) from R&D through global Phase 3 trials resulting in FDA approval via BLA, negotiated a path to value-based reimbursement with CMS, and built strong clinical and preclinical pipelines, while growing the team from scratch to ~130. She then served as Chief Scientific Officer for Cell Care Therapeutics.

Shannon was recognized as a top 100 Global Healthcare and Life Sciences Leader by PharmaVOICE in 2018. She has served on Boards of Directors, as well as Strategic and Scientific Advisory Boards. With a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Duke University and a B.S. in Materials Sciences and Engineering from MIT, Shannon has built a formidable career marked by groundbreaking achievements and strategic leadership at the intersection of science and business, consistently driving scientific initiatives from discovery to market readiness.

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Deborah Deas, MD, MPH

University of California, Riverside
Dean and CEO of Clinical Affairs, School of Medicine
An executive officer from a UC
Appointed by a UC Chancellor

Deborah Deas, M.D., M.P.H. is the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, the Mark and Pam Rubin Dean of the School of Medicine, and Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, Riverside (UCR).

Dr. Deas is a child/adolescent and addiction psychiatrist who completed her medical doctor degree, residency, and fellowship training at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC). She also completed a National Institutes of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) research fellowship.

In 2024, Deas was named a distinguished life fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. In 2022, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine, which advises the nation on issues of health, healthcare, biomedical sciences, and technology. Dr. Deas has received a variety of accolades and awards at the national, regional, and local levels, including certificates of recognition from the California State Senate, the California State Assembly, and the County of Riverside (2020), the Woman of Action Award from the Riverside City Council (2020), the National Hispanic Health Foundation Award in Medicine (2019), and the NAACP Riverside Branch #1059 Medicine award (2019). In 2023 she received an honorary doctorate of humane letters (LHD) from Western University of Health Sciences

She is board certified in adult psychiatry, child/adolescent psychiatry, and addiction psychiatry.

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Anne-Marie Duliege, MD

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Deputy Director
An executive officer of a Commercial Life Science Entity
Appointed by the Controller

Anne-Marrie Duliege, MD, is a Senior Executive and Chief Medical Officer with 30 years of experience guiding biopharmaceutical companies through development and commercial stages. Dr. Duliege is equally successful in leading nonprofit healthcare organizations, most recently at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as a member of the team working on malaria. Previously, she was the Chief Medical Officer of PanCAN, a nonprofit organization focused on pancreatic cancer. In addition to being on the board of the CIRM since 2012, she serves on the board of Fe Pharmaceuticals (an infectious diseases-related biotechnology startup), Global Strategies (improving access to health care in developing countries), and the AIDS Vaccine Advocacy Coalition (focusing on HIV prevention worldwide).

Before that, she served as EVP and CMO at Rigel Pharmaceuticals and as CMO and Head of Research & Clinical Development at Affymax. Earlier in her career, she led clinical development programs at Chiron and Genentech.

Previously, she was an epidemiologist with the National Institute of Science and Medical Research in Paris. Dr. Duliege received her MD degree and certification in Pediatrics from Paris Medical School, an M.S. in Epidemiology from Harvard School of Public Health, and an M.S. in Biostatistics from Paris Medical School. She continues to practice medicine as an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor at Stanford School of Medicine and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.

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Ysabel Duron

Latino Cancer Institute
Founder and Chair
Patient Advocate, Cancer
Appointed by the Controller

Ysabel Duron is a pioneering, award-winning Latina journalist and a leading figure in cancer education in the Latino community in the US. Ms. Duron was a journalist and TV news anchor for more than 43 years, winning numerous awards, including two EMMYS. She has been inducted into the Hall of Fame of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and given the Living Legacy Award by the Chicana/Latina Foundation. In 2019, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Women's Media Foundation, which she helped found 30 years earlier to help put women's voices front and center in covering the news.

As a journalist, she covered her own battle against Hodgkin's Lymphoma, using her reporting to help raise awareness about the disease and the health disparities involved in treating it in communities of color.

In 2003, as a result of her own experience, she founded Latinas Contra Cancer, a non-profit organization that advocates for and serves the Latino community. She drove development of programs to address gaps across the cancer continuum from community education and navigation into screening to psychosocial support groups, treatment and survivorship.

Her early mantra when she launched Latinas Contra Cancer was talking about cancer won't kill us, the silence will. She successfully piloted a lay community navigator program in the public health care system's Sobrato Cancer Center in San Jose, California, dedicated to providing support and guidance for low-income, Spanish-speaking patients. In 2008, she launched the biennial National Latino Cancer Summit, bringing the community together with researchers to network, learn from each other, and find ways to collaborate. In 2016 the Summit spotlighted Precision Medicine – concerned the cutting-edge science would exacerbate disparities if underserved communities could not access it.

In 2017, she was appointed by NIH Director Francis Collins to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) for the All of Us Research Program, formerly known as President Obama's Precision Medicine Initiative. The role of the IRB is to protect the rights, welfare, and privacy of research participants. As a patient advocate, Ms. Duron also works to ensure that research is inclusive of racial/ethnic minorities and is sensitive to historical, cultural, and language barriers and biases that hinder their successful engagement. She is now the President of The Latino Cancer Institute (TLCI), a national network of Latino cancer service agencies that addresses the community's cancer disparities.

CIRM
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Mark Fischer Colbrie, MBA

Breakthrough T1D (formerly JDRF)
Member
Patient Advocate, Type I Diabetes
Appointed by the Treasurer

Mark Fischer-Colbrie has more than 30 years of experience in building laboratory tools and diagnostic, therapeutic, and medical device companies. He was most recently CEO at Strateos, Inc., a software technology and automation company that seeks to accelerate life science research by enabling cloud access to broad-scale automation. Previously, Mark was the CEO for over ten years at Labcyte Inc., which invented novel lab tools and automation that have been adopted worldwide. Before Labcyte, he ran business development and was the CFO at Adeza Biomedical Corporation, a women's healthcare company. He holds four issued patents for diagnostics and therapeutics. In 2013, Mark was named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Life Sciences for Northern California.

Mark is the former Chairman of the Board for JDRF International, the largest global funder seeking a cure for type one diabetes. As a 21-year JDRF volunteer, he served on the JDRF International Board for 7 years and was a member of multiple committees including Research, Finance and Nominating & Governance. For the Greater Bay Area JDRF Chapter, Mark served as the Chapter President for 3 terms and has been a board member for 18 years.

Mark holds a BA from Stanford University and an MBA from University of California, Berkeley. He served on a life sciences industry board, the Analytical, Life Sciences Diagnostics Association (ALDA), from 2011 to 2024. Mark enjoys long-distance endurance events and has completed 14 Ironman Triathlons.

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Elena Flowers, PhD, RN

University of California, San Francisco
Professor, Physiological Nursing, School of Nursing
Nurse with experience in clinical trial management or stem cell or genetic therapy delivery
Appointed by the Controller

Elena Flowers, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Physiological Nursing and a Cardiovascular Clinical Nurse Specialist.

Her program of research is focused on the relationships between risk factors, risk-reduction interventions, and molecular biomarkers for chronic diseases, namely type-2 diabetes and preterm birth. Her work is focused on individuals from the highest-risk populations, including racially and ethnically minoritized groups in the United States. Current studies include the characterization of extracellular microRNAs associated with risk for type 2 diabetes and responses to behavioral interventions. In addition, her team is applying machine learning approaches to explore risk prediction through the integration of biological (e.g., gene expression) and behavioral (e.g., physical activity) characteristics.

At UC San Francisco, Dr. Flowers is the Director of the minor in genomics in the School of Nursing. Dr. Flowers teaches several classes on genomics and the clinical implications for nurses. Graduates from the program go on to become leaders in bringing genomic knowledge and applications to clinical settings nationwide.

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Judith C. Gasson, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles
Professor of Medicine HemOnc, Director (Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center), Emerita and Senior Advisor for Research and Innovation in the David Geffen School of Medicine
An executive officer from a UC
Appointed by a UC Chancellor

Judith Gasson, PhD, earned her doctorate degree in physiology at the University of Colorado in 1979. She did her postdoctoral work at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, CA, studying glucocorticoid hormones, which are made by the adrenal gland in response to stress. In 1983, she left the Salk Institute to join UCLA.

At UCLA, Gasson was instrumental in purifying for the first time a human hormone-like substance that increases the speed of bone marrow cell reproduction and activation of myeloid cells. That substance, called GM-CSF, has been used to help prevent infections and speed recovery in cancer and stem cell transplant patients.

From 1995 to 2015, Dr. Gasson was the director of UCLA's Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center (JCCC), among the nation's top 10, according to U.S. News & World Report. Under her leadership, the JCCC became a recognized international pioneer in "translating" laboratory discoveries into more effective new therapies for cancer patients everywhere. She also served as the President of the Jonsson Cancer Center Foundation and the Founding Co-Director of the UCLA Broad Stem Cell Research Center (2005 to 2012). From 2012 to 2015, she was the Senior Associate Dean for Research at the David Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA.

In 2020, she was awarded the American Society of Hematology Mentor Award. She is currently the Professor (Medicine Hem-Onc) and Director (Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center) Emerita and Senior Advisor for Research and Innovation in the David Geffen School of Medicine.

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Vito Imbasciani, PhD, MD

Chair of the ICOC, Governing Board

Vito Imbasciani, PhD, MD, was sworn in as Board Chair of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) on March 28, 2023.

Before joining CIRM, Dr. Imbasciani served as the Secretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) since 2015. As Secretary, he created several new programs within the department, including forging eight independent California veteran homes into a unified system, establishing programs for veterans in state prisons, and supporting the 58 county veteran service offices.

In addition, Dr. Imbasciani has been a practicing urologic surgeon for 30 years, treating a mostly older population suffering from congenital and acquired conditions.

Dr. Imbasciani completed medical school at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and his surgical and urologic residencies at Yale-New Haven Hospital and the West Haven VA Hospital in Connecticut. At the University of Vermont, he worked in the laboratory assisting in studies of neurodegenerative diseases.

He earned MA and PhD degrees from Cornell University, and was a Fulbright Scholar to Rome, Italy in 1973. He held academic teaching positions at the University of Florida, Cornell University, and Middlebury College in Vermont.

He also served for 27 years as a surgeon in the United States Army Medical Corps, with four wartime deployments that exposed him to battlefield medicine and post-acute care.

Dr. Imbasciani also has a documented history of successful stem cell research advocacy. As an elected member of the Board of Directors of both the California Medical Association and the Los Angeles County Medical Association, he advocated for investments in basic stem cell research and for the passage of Proposition 71, the ballot initiative that created CIRM. This included participating in activities aimed at educating the wider medical community about the long-term benefits of stem cell research.

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Rich Lajara

Americans for Cures
Patient Ambassador
Patient Advocate, Spinal Cord Injury
Appointed by the Governor

Rich Lajara suffered a recreational accident at a river in 2011 that left him paralyzed from the mid-torso down. Within two weeks he was a patient in the world's first embryonic stem cell human clinical trial. In fact, he was California's first embryonic stem cell patient in the very first clinical trial funded by CIRM. It was a Phase 1 trial, meaning the goal was just to prove the treatment was safe. Because the therapy dose was minimal, there was no expectation of recovery. But it was successful in achieving its objective: it was safe for use in people and, therefore, able to advance to further testing in clinical trials. This clinical trial includes a 15-year follow-up commitment.

Since 2015, Rich has been very involved in patient advocacy for spinal cord injury (SCI) as a Patient Ambassador for the non-profit Americans for Cures (AFC). AFC's mission is to advocate for stem cell research and therapy development, with the aim to improve the lives of patients and their families suffering from chronic disease and injury. AFC played a central part in laying the groundwork for getting Proposition 14 passed in 2020 – the California ballot initiative that refunded CIRM – helping to develop the elements and language for the new initiative and to create the message needed to inform the public about the value of CIRM and Proposition 14. In the years leading up to the ballot initiative, Rich shared his story and experience as a stem cell clinical trial participant on multiple platforms to an array of audiences such as scientists, doctors, researchers, college students, the general public, and others suffering from SCI. His story and experience were an important voice to be heard as Proposition 14 was developed and California voters were asked to provide additional funds for CIRM to continue funding research.

Rich also works full-time and has worked for an electric utility company for the past 18 years. He recently took on a new role as an Electric Distribution Operator. Even after his injury, he still has a strong passion for outdoor recreational activities such as adaptive mountain bike riding, paddle boarding, four-wheeling, and adaptive skiing.

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Pat Levitt, PhD

Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Chief Scientific Officer, Vice President and Director
An executive officer from a California Research Institute
Appointed by the Controller

Pat Levitt, PhD, is the Chief Scientific Officer, Vice President, and Director at The Saban Research Institute, Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). He holds the Simms/Mann Chair, Developmental Neurogenetics at CHLA and W.M. Keck Provost Professor, Neurogenetics, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California. Dr. Levitt served as Chairman of the Department of Neurobiology at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the Director of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development. Dr. Levitt was appointed to the U.S. National Advisory Mental Health Council for the National Institute of Mental Health.

Dr. Levitt is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine and an elected fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives. He is a senior fellow at the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University and serves as Co-Scientific Director of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, a policy council focused on communicating science to assist policymakers, service providers, and business leaders in making decisions regarding investments in child brain and physical health programs.

Dr. Levitt's basic and clinical research program focuses on identifying the genetic and environmental factors that assure the healthy development of brain architecture, particularly the maturation of circuits involved in cognition, emotional regulation, and social behaviour. Specific projects address how toxic stress responses in human infants and toddlers may be detected very early on in order to develop best practices for promoting resilience and better prevention and intervention. He also engages families in research who have a child with autism and co-occurring medical conditions, such as gastrointestinal and seizure disorders. He has published over 300 scientific papers and has served on the editorial boards of many scientific journals — including his current role as editor-in-chief of Mind, Brain, and Education.

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Hala Madanat, PhD

San Diego State University
Vice President for Research and Innovation
An executive officer from a California University
Appointed by the Governor

Hala Madanat, PhD, is the Vice President for Research and Innovation at San Diego State University and Albert W. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Public Health. Dr. Madanat stewards the university's expansive research enterprise, leads the development of SDSU's Mission Valley Innovation District, and oversees SDSU's research advancement, research support services and technology transfer efforts, the SDSU Research Foundation, as well as the university's start-up incubator, the Zahn Innovation Platform Launchpad.

Under Dr. Madanat's leadership, SDSU's research reached $230 million in fiscal 2024 – an almost 65% increase in three years. Dr. Madanat was integral in launching Techstars San Diego Powered by SDSU, a world-class accelerator open to startups from around the world. She led the effort for the first national Academic Health and Human Services Department, a collaboration between SDSU and the County of San Diego Health and Human Services to establish the Live Well Center for Innovation and Leadership to address the need for a diverse workforce pipeline and the health disparities pervasive in the San Diego community today.

From 2016 to 2020, Dr. Madanat served as the Director of SDSU's School of Public Health. During her tenure, research funding at the school increased 50 percent and its U.S. News ranking rose to No. 23 nationally.

Dr. Madanat is a distinguished professor of health promotion and behavioral sciences. Her research addresses health disparities through community-engaged research. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Madanat co-led a $5.5 million contact tracing program funded by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency aimed at enhancing support in underserved communities and curbing the spread of the novel coronavirus. This provided a platform for additional grants and contracts focused on testing, reopening schools, and vaccine hesitancy. She serves as the lead principal investigator for the Cancer Research and Education to Advance HealTh Equity (CREATE) funded by the National Cancer Institute. She has led the evaluation of several National Institutes of Health-funded grants and published nearly 100 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and books.

Dr. Madanat has a B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Jordan, a M.S. in Community Health Sciences, and a Ph.D. in Sociology with a minor in Public Health, both from Brigham Young University. Dr. Madanat is also a graduate of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce LEAD Advance program.

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Linda Malkas, PhD

City of Hope
Deputy Director of the City of Hope's Comprehensive Cancer Center
An executive officer from a California Research Institute
Appointed by the Treasurer

Linda H. Malkas, PhD, is currently professor and associate chair of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope, serving as the deputy director of basic research. In 2011, she co-founded the Molecular Oncology Program at the cancer center. Most recently, Dr. Malkas was appointed as a Board Member to the Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee, which serves as trustees of the people of the State of California and is expected to carry out the mandate of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine to the best of their ability and judgment and in the best interests of the people of California.

Dr. Malkas received her B.A. in chemistry and Ph.D. in biochemistry from the City University of New York. She completed her post-doctoral studies at the Worchester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Massachusetts and held faculty positions at the University of Maryland School Of Medicine in Baltimore. Before joining City of Hope, she was at the Indiana University School of Medicine as a Professor of Medicine and the University's first Vera Bradley Chair in Oncology. While there, she co-founded and served as co-leader of the Indiana University Simon Cancer Center's Breast Cancer Research Program. She also founded and served as the first Director of the Signature Center for Breast Cancer Research at Indiana University.

Dr. Malkas has published more than 75 peer-reviewed publications in respected journals, given many plenary and platform presentations at national and international scientific meetings, and participated in a variety of NIH and DOD grant review study sections. Dr. Malkas is also a member of the Editorial Boards for Cancer Research, Cancer Prevention Research, Current Cancer Therapy Reviews, and the American Journal of Translational Research. Since 2011, she has served on the DOD Ovarian Cancer Research Program Integration Panel. She is also an external advisor for Yale University, the University of Texas San Antonio Cancer Centers, the University of Arizona, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, Dr. Malkas is the co-inventor on more than 23 U.S. and international patents and has received multiple awards and recognitions during her career.

Dr. Malkas' major research focus is the relationship between DNA replication and cancer. Her laboratory's recent work has led to the opportunity to develop truly selective, therapeutic agents that will inhibit proteins uniquely expressed by cancer cells.

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Shlomo Melmed, MD

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs & Dean of the Medical Faculty
An executive officer from a California Research Institute
Appointed by the Governor

Shlomo Melmed, MD, received his medical degree with distinction from the University of Cape Town, School of Medicine in 1970. At Cedars-Sinai since 1980, he is now Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, and Dean of the Medical Faculty. He is also Professor and Associate Dean of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine, and Director of the Research Institute at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Dr. Melmed is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, certified in Endocrinology & Metabolism; a fellow of the American College of Physicians and elected to Master of the ACP; an elected member of the Association of American Physicians and the American Society of Clinical Investigation; recipient of the Endocrinology Medal of the Royal Society of Medicine; Endocrine Society Clinical Investigator Award; the Society of Endocrinology Transatlantic Medal; the Pituitary Society's Lifetime Achievement Awards; and is listed in BEST Doctors of America.

Dr. Melmed's laboratory has been consistently funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from 1980-2016, and he has trained over 60 physicians, scientists, and graduate students who occupy leading positions in academic endocrinology worldwide. His research is devoted to molecular pathogenesis and treatment of pituitary tumors and growth factor regulation of anterior pituitary function. He has pioneered the discovery and application of novel treatments for endocrine tumors and is a recognized international authority on pituitary medicine. Dr. Melmed is acknowledged as a plenary speaker at multiple national and international meetings and is the author of over 300 peer-reviewed articles in prestigious publications. He edits The Pituitary, co-edits Endocrinology: Basic and Clinical Principles, DeGroot and Jameson's Textbook of Endocrinology, and Williams Textbook of Endocrinology; and is pituitary section author for Harrison's Textbook of Medicine, Editor-in-Chief of Pituitary, and is on the editorial board of Journal of Clinical Investigation and past Editor-in-Chief of Endocrinology.

Having served on the NIH Endocrinology Study Section, he also has chaired Special Endocrine Study Sections. He was President and founding member of the Pituitary Society, co-chairs its Program Committee, and was an elected member of the Endocrine Society Council. He was President of the International Society of Endocrinology and a member of the Executive Board Committee, and a Director of the Association for the Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs (AAHRPP).

CIRM
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Carolyn Meltzer, MD

University of Southern California
Dean, Keck School of Medicine
An executive officer from a California Research Institute
Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor

Carolyn C. Meltzer, MD was appointed to the CIRM Board by Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis. Dr. Meltzer is an expert in neuroradiology and nuclear medicine and is well known for her role in evaluating and translating novel technologies, such as the first human-combined PET-CT scanner and the application of AI to medical images.

Her NIH-funded research has focused on the brain's structure and function during normal aging, dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and psychiatric disorders in later life. Dr. Meltzer currently serves as the Dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC and the May S. and John H. Hooval Dean's Chair in Medicine.

Prior to her appointment at the Keck School, Dr. Meltzer was the William P. Timmie Professor and Chair in the Department of Radiology and Imaging Sciences at the Emory School of Medicine. She's held numerous academic positions throughout her career and received several recognitions for her work, including the distinguished service award from the American Medical Association and gold medal award from the American College of Radiology.

Dr. Meltzer earned her medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and completed her graduate medical education at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She holds an undergraduate degree in neurobiology with honors from Cornell University.

CIRM
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Christine Miaskowski, RN, PhD, FAAN

University of California, San Francisco
Emeritus Professor & Vice Chair for Research
Nurse with experience in clinical trial management
Appointed by the Treasurer

Christine Miaskowski, RN, PhD, FAAN, is the Emeritus Professor and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Physiological Nursing, and Sharon A. Lamb, Endowed Chair in Symptom Management Research in the School of Nursing at the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF). She held an appointment in the Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Care at UCSF School of Medicine and served as the Co-Director of the Pain and Addition Research Center. She was the first nurse to be awarded an American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professorship. In 2025, she was recognized as a Living Legend by the American Academy of Nursing (AAN).

Dr. Miaskowski received her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from Molloy College in New York. She has a Master's degree in Nursing from Adelphi University and a Master's degree in Biology and a PhD in Physiology from St. John's University in New York. After completing her doctoral degree, Dr. Miaskowski traveled to the West Coast where she completed a postdoctoral fellowship as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Nurse Scholar.

Dr. Miaskowski is active in numerous professional organizations and has served on the Board of Directors of the Oncology Nursing Society, the American Pain Society, and the International Association for the Study of Pain. She was the first nurse elected President of the American Pain Society. Dr. Miaskowski has received numerous honors and awards, including the Distinguished Researcher Award from the Oncology Nursing Society, the Distinguished Merit Award from the International Society of Nurses in Cancer Care, the Wilbert Fordyce Clinical Investigator Award from the American Pain Society, and the Ada Sue Hinshaw Distinguished Research Award. In addition, she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Oncology Nursing Society and the American Pain Society. Dr. Miaskowski is a Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and a member of Sigma Theta Tau's International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame. Most recently, she was honored by the National Cancer Institute's Division of Cancer Prevention as one of seven scientists (the only nurse) as a champion and change maker of cancer pain control and symptom science.

Dr. Miaskowski is an internationally recognized expert in pain and symptom management research. She is a prolific writer who has authored over 600 peer-reviewed papers and four books. Her research program focuses on determining which phenotypic and genotypic characteristics predict patients with the most severe symptoms, evaluating the deleterious effects of unrelieved symptoms on patient outcomes, and developing and testing pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic interventions to decrease symptoms in patients with cancer.

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Adriana Padilla, MD

Community Medical Providers
Physician
Patient Advocate, Type II Diabetes
Appointed by the Lieutenant Governor

Adriana Padilla, MD, is a full-time practicing family physician in Fresno, California. Over the past 20 years of her career, Dr. Padilla has maintained her commitment to serving others, in teaching the next generation of doctors, promoting health and wellness, and in advocacy.

As a full-time practicing physician, Dr. Padilla cares for many patients with chronic conditions. Diabetes and pre-diabetes are the leading chronic medical conditions in her practice that she assists and motivates her patients to control. She is a physician member of the American Diabetes Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and of the National Hispanic Medical Association, where promoting health and wellness to all populations especially those who are disproportionately affected by diabetes, is a priority.

She graduated from UC Irvine College of Medicine and completed a rural family medicine residency program at UCSF Fresno. She is Board Certified, Fellowship trained, and is a Clinical Professor in Family and Community Medicine at UCSF Fresno, where she maintains her volunteer teaching status in addition to program design while maintaining her full-time practice.

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Joe Panetta

BioCom
President and Chief Executive Officer
An executive officer from a Commercial Life Science Entity
Appointed by the Governor

Joseph Panetta is President & CEO and a member of the Board of Directors of Biocom California, the state association that advocates for 1800 companies, service sector firms, universities, and research institutes working in the biotechnology and biomedical device arena. As President and CEO since 1999, Mr. Panetta has been responsible for leading Biocom California's efforts to position the regional life science community to achieve global success. Working with an experienced professional staff of 85 and a very engaged Board of Directors and Board of Governors, he leads programs in capital formation, public policy, workforce education, and member-to-member services. He also oversees several subsidiaries of Biocom California, including a Purchasing Group which provides more than $300 million in products and services to members and is a co-founder of the Biocom California Political Action Committee, the Biocom California Institute for Education and Workforce Development, and the California Biotechnology Foundation, a joint initiative to inform legislators and the media about the life science industry in the state, of which he is Chairman.

Mr. Panetta is active on various boards, business coalitions, and committees addressing issues pertinent to the life science industry. In January 2014, Mr. Panetta was appointed by CA Gov. Jerry Brown to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee, which serves as the governing and oversight Board for the CA Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) and is responsible for providing grant funding under the $3 billion CA stem cell initiative. He is a past chairman of the board of the San Diego Workforce Partnership and sits on the boards of directors of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and CONNECT. He is a member of advisory boards of the pharmacy school at UC San Diego, the engineering school at San Diego State University, and the College of Science and Mathematics at Cal State University San Marcos.

He is a former Board member of and current advisor to eStudySite, a clinical studies firm, and a former Board Member of Genlantis, a San Diego-based therapeutics company. His civic involvement includes past service on the San Diego Public Utilities Advisory Commission which advises the mayor and city council on water-related issues. He has served on the American Heart Association San Diego Advisory Council and currently serves on the American Cancer Society San Diego Advisory Council.

He has advised the National Academy of the Sciences on biotechnology safety issues, has been a delegate to the Global Consultation on Safety in Biotechnology under the auspices of the United Nations Environmental Program, and he was a member of the

U.S. Council on Competitiveness' Mexico-U.S. Biotechnology advisory board. He has testified before committees of the U.S. Congress and the California legislature on issues regarding biotechnology policy, regulatory affairs, and international trade, and regularly travels to Washington, DC to discuss biotechnology-related issues with members of Congress and executive branch leadership.

Mr. Panetta has been actively involved in the health sciences and government arenas for more than 25 years, having begun his professional career in 1979 with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Washington D.C., where he became the youngest senior policy analyst at the agency during the Reagan Administration. While at the EPA, he worked with Administrators Anne Gorsuch and William Ruckleshaus to develop the agency's first strategic plans and goals, and he participated in the implementation of newly passed legislation to oversee the safe use of toxic substances.

In 1984, Mr. Panetta joined Pennwalt Corporation, a Fortune 500 pharmaceutical and chemical company, where he led a global regulatory affairs program, and was actively involved in new business acquisition. In 1988 he came to San Diego to join Mycogen Corporation, one of the first NASDAQ listed biotechnology firms, where he played a principal role in obtaining U.S. and worldwide regulatory approvals of the first genetically engineered microbes and crops. Mr. Panetta served as Vice President of Government and Public Affairs at Mycogen during a period when the company grew to over 600 employees and had sales of $250 million, with several international offices. His global responsibilities included serving as Chairman of Mycogen Mexico and as a board member of Mycogen France. After participating in the divestiture of Mycogen to The Dow Chemical Company in 1998, he served briefly as Global Leader of Government and Regulatory Affairs for the Plant Sciences Division of Dow AgroSciences before taking the helm at Biocom California.

In addition to his work as President and CEO of Biocom California, Mr. Panetta's association involvement has included serving as founding member of the International Biotechnology Forum under the auspices of the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). He has served as Chairman of the BIO Council of State Bioscience Associations, an organization that coordinates joint efforts of more than 50 regional biotechnology associations nationwide in addressing state and national policy issues and in identifying and adopting best management practices. Mr. Panetta has been recognized for his advocacy work by the American Academy of Pharmaceutical Physicians and the Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center. He received the 2008 Distinguished Contribution Award for Life Science Innovation from CONNECT. He also received the 2016 Annual Leadership Award from the Union of Pan Asian Communities, the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from San Diego Business Journal, and the 2022 Director of the Year Community Impact Award from the Corporate Directors Forum.

Mr. Panetta holds a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, NY, and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Pittsburgh. He has completed the Brookings Institution program in government policy and the Harvard program in negotiation. He resides in San Diego with his wife Karin and has two grown children. He enjoys participating in outdoor sports, including skiing and cycling, reading books on history and science, and playing the piano.

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Marvin Southard, DSW

Capstone Solutions Consulting Group
Founding Partner
Patient Advocate, Mental Health Conditions
Appointed by the Governor

Marvin (Marv) Southard, MSW, DSW, is the former Director of the largest county-run mental health services organization in the United States, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH), with a budget approaching $3 billion, serving more than a quarter of a million persons annually that supports innovative co-located services within schools, courts, other County departments, and various community organizations.

In this role at LACDMH, Marv assembled a groundbreaking team that accomplished creative and inclusive work with communities, including regional mental health urgent care centers, crisis response teams, children and older adult systems of care, Health Neighborhoods, and partnerships with faith communities to further social justice.

Marv has focused his career on empowering healthy urban and rural communities to strengthen recovery from mental health and substance use challenges. He served for a decade as a leader of community behavioral health services in East Los Angeles. Marv also founded substance abuse treatment centers and served as a clinical director and leader of numerous organizations, as well as acting in another county government leadership role as the Kern County Director of Mental Health.

On leaving government service, Marv continued to serve communities, mental health organizations, and governmental entities as a consultant and Professor of Practice at the University of Southern California (USC), where he developed the Professional DSW degree program, mentoring the next generation of community service leaders. He currently serves on the boards of numerous community organizations, including CIBHS, Proxy Parent Foundation, Mental Health America California, National Network for Social Work Management, The Grand Challenges of Social Work, and others. with former work colleagues and friends, he is a founding principal of Capstone Solutions Consulting Group. He and his wife Carolyn also conduct a weekly Catholic Bible Study at the California Men's Colony prison.

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Shauna Stark, MS

University of California, Irvine
Assistant Dean for Research, School of Medicine
An executive officer from the UC
Appointed by a UC Chancellor

Shauna Stark, MS, is the assistant dean for research and chief of staff at the UC Irvine School of Medicine. Stark earned her MS from the University of Oregon and spent the next 20 years researching the neural basis of memory and how it is altered with aging and pathological disease, such as Alzheimer's disease. She primarily utilized neuroimaging and behavioral testing to assess brain health and predict disease trajectory. In additional to government-sponsored research, she collaborated with industry on the design and implementation of clinical trials. In 2020, she moved into administration in the School of Medicine, overseeing a multidisciplinary clinical trials unit, a GMP facility for the manufacturing of cell and gene therapies, research development unit, and graduate & postdoctoral studies. Critically, she applied her 25+ years of scientific research experience to identify key ares of strategic growth, provide programmatic assessments, identify barriers, provide solutions, and implement the processes necessary to ensure that continued programmatic goals are attained and areas of potential growth are identified and developed.

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Karol E. Watson, MD, PhD, FACC

University of California, Los Angeles
Professor of Medicine/Cardiology
American Heart Association
Patient Advocate, Heart Disease
Appointed by the Treasurer

Karol E. Watson, MD, PhD, FACC, is a Professor of Medicine/Cardiology and a board-certified, full-time cardiologist at the Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She holds the John C. Mazziotta Term Chair in Medicine and was honored to be named Cardiologist of the Year by the California chapter of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) in 2017. Dr. Watson received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University, her Medical Degree from Harvard Medical School, magna cum laude, and her PhD in Physiology from UCLA. She completed a residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Cardiology at UCLA and continued there as part of the UCLA Specialty Training and Academic Research program and as Chief Fellow in Cardiovascular Diseases at UCLA.

Currently, Dr. Watson is the director of the UCLA Barbra Streisand Women's Heart Health Program, Co-Director of the UCLA Program in Preventative Cardiology, and director of the UCLA Fellowship Program in Cardiovascular Diseases.

Dr. Watson contributes nationally on a number of fronts as well. She is a Principal Investigator for several large NIH studies and serves on several NIH Steering committees. She is currently chair of the Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Toxicology Devices Panel of the Food and Drug Administration. Dr. Watson is past Vice President for the Association of Black Cardiologists (ABC); and immediate past chairperson of the scientific advisory board for Womenheart, – the largest national organization for women living with heart disease. Dr. Watson has received many honors, including the "America's Top Physicians" designation from Black Enterprise magazine, a Super Doctors designation from "Tu Ciudad" and "Los Angeles" magazines, and in 2010, she was awarded a "Red Dress Award" from Women's Day magazine. Dr. Watson has been quoted in many papers, journals, and periodicals, including USA Today, the Los Angeles Times, Woman's Day, and Redbook magazines. She has appeared in interviews on Lifetime television, NBC News, and PBS, among others. Also, Dr. Watson was one of the physician hosts of the TLC television series "Guardian Angels, MD," as well as an advisor to and featured in the Emmy award-winning PBS series "The Mysterious Human Heart."

The American Society of Hypertension recognizes Dr. Watson as a Specialist in Hypertension, she chairs the Cholesterol committee of the Association of Black Cardiologists, and serves on several committees and panels of the National Institutes of Health including serving on the NIH Expert Panel for the Integrated Clinical Guideline

for Cardiovascular Risk Reduction. She is currently chairperson of the national advisory board for WomenHeart (a national organization dedicated to women with heart disease), a former member of the advisory board for the California Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program, and Chairperson of the FDA Clinical Chemistry and Clinical Toxicology Devices Panel.

Dr. Watson's more than 100 publications and presentations have addressed many subjects, including prevention of heart disease, vascular calcification, hormone replacement therapy, metabolic syndrome, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, and. cardiovascular disease in African Americans.

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Yael Wyte, MSW

Alzheimer's Association, California Southland Chapter
Program and Education Manager
Patient Advocate, Alzheimer's Disease
Appointed by the Governor

Yael Wyte is the Program and Education Manager at Alzheimer's Association, California Southland Chapter. She has served in this role since 2016, providing resources and education to families through care consultations, leading support groups for caregivers and PWDs, facilitating support group trainings with volunteers and staff, identifying and collaborating with community partners, and creating and leading adult learning models for first responders.

Yael earned her Master of Social Work from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech-Language Pathology from University of Arizona. Since her MSW, she has worked in various capacities to promote education and support related to caring for the elderly and those with Alzheimer's. A Global Trainee at Warner Brothers, she established an Elder Care Awareness program for employees. At Leeza's Care Connection at Olympia Medical Center, she directed a free resource and support center for caregivers and their loved ones. At Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles, she oversaw Memories in the Making (MIM), a fine arts program for people with Alzheimer's disease or other dementias that allows them an opportunity to communicate non-verbal way through art. At Silverado Senior Living, among other accomplishments, she launched a new independent living floor and created a unique social outing program for PWD still living at home. She has also been working with Hilarity for Charity, leading monthly caregiver support groups.

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Kevin Xu

MEBO International
Chief Executive Officer
Patient Advocate, Mental Health
Appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly

Kevin Xu is CEO of MEBO International, an intellectual property management company responsible for managing “Human Body Regenerative Restoration Science” and Skingenix, a California-based organization exclusively working on drug development in the field of damaged organ regeneration. Kevin Xu is the Co-chair of Host Committee of APEC 2023.

Xu brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership experience to his new role. He was appointed to serve by then California Governor Jerry Brown on the California- China Trade and Investment Advisory Group and on a key advisory board of California-China trade office. He is the Executive Board member and Co-Chair of the International Committee, Bay Area Council, a member of Los Angeles County Mental Health Commission and member of the International Policy Committee of U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to his advisory roles at several organizations, Xu serves as a member of the Clinton Global Initiative, the Forbes Non-Profit Council, the Fortune CEO Initiative and the Young Entrepreneur Council (YEC). He is the founder of the National Rongxiang Xu Foundation, the Human Heritage Project and California Fight Against Coronavirus (CFAC). He is also the director of Beijing Rongxiang Regenerative Medicine Laboratory, former member institute of the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI), and President of International Society of Regenerative Medicine and Wound Repair (ISRMWR).

Xu earned a BA in neuroscience from the University of Southern California (USC) where he was awarded the USC Young Alumni Merit Award.

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Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD

University of California San Francisco
Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy
An executive officer from a UC
Appointed by a UC Chancellor

Keith R. Yamamoto, PhD, is Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy, Director of Precision Medicine, and professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology at UCSF.

After earning his PhD from Princeton University, Yamamoto joined the UCSF faculty in 1976, where he has been an international leader in the investigation of transcriptional regulation by nuclear receptors, which mediate the actions of essential hormones and cellular signals; he uses mechanistic and systems approaches to pursue these problems in pure molecules, cells and whole organisms.

He has led or served on numerous national committees focused on public and scientific policy, public understanding and support of biological research, and science education; he chairs the Coalition for the Life Sciences and sits on the National Research Council Governing Board Executive Committee, serves as vice chair of the National Academy of Medicine's Executive Committee and Council, and is a member of the National Academy of Sciences Division of Earth and Life Studies Advisory Committee, the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of Research America and the Advisory Board for Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

As Chair of the NAS Board on Life Sciences, he created the study committee that produced "Toward Precision Medicine: Building a Knowledge Network for Biomedical Research and a New Taxonomy of Disease," the report that enunciated the precision medicine concept, and he has helped to lead efforts in the White House, in Congress, in Sacramento and at UCSF to implement it.

He has chaired or served on many committees that oversee training and the biomedical workforce, research funding, and the process of peer review and the policies that govern it at NIH. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Academy of Microbiology, and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

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Monica Carson, PhD
University of California, Riverside
Professor and Chair of Biomedical Sciences
S. Sue Johnson Presidential Endowed Chair
Director of the Center for Glial-Neuronal Interactions
Alternate for Deborah Deas

Monica Carson, PhD, is Professor of Biomedical Sciences, Chair of the Division of Biomedical Sciences, and the S. Sue Johnson Presidential Endowed Chair in Glial-Neuronal Interactions at University of Caliornia, Riverside. She is also Director of the School of Medicine's Center for Glial-Neuronal Interactions and Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Neuroinflammation*.

Dr. Carson earned her PhD at University of Pennsylvania and completed her post-doctoral fellowship at The Scripps Research Institute. Her research focuses on neuroinflammatory and neurodegenerative disorders, microglia & glial-neuronal interactions, and environmental exposures and systemic inflammation. Among other services, she has served as Editor-in-Chief of *ASN NEURO*, President of the International Society for Neurochemistry, Associate Editor of the *Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Immunology*, *Neurochemistry International* (2007-2014), and *Journal of Neuroscience Research*. She has served on the scientific advisory and review boards of NIH, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Fellowship Advisory Committee, Race to Erase MS, and the Brain Research Foundation.

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Harold Collard, MD, MS

University of California, San Francisco
Vice Chancellor for Research, Professor of Medicine and Health Policy
Alternate for Keith Yamamoto

Harold (Hal) Collard is the Vice Chancellor for Research and a Professor of Medicine and Health Policy at the University of California San Francisco. For the last 20 years, Hal has worked to improve the lives of people with a chronic lung condition called pulmonary fibrosis, starting a world class clinical and research program, and working to develop and grow the leading advocacy organization for patients and their loved ones. As the top scientific leader at the University of California San Francisco, Hal stewards the institutional research mission – managing the organizations research administration, building partnerships with industry and foundations, and advocating for researchers and research priorities with Federal agencies and members of Congress. Hal is an alumnus of Harvard College, Duke University, and the University of California School of Law.

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Jeffrey Golden, MD

Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Executive Vice Dean, Research and Education
Alternate for Shlomo Melmed

Jeffrey A. Golden is the Director of the Burns and Allen Research Institute, Executive Vice Dean for Research and Education, the Linda and James Lippman Distinguished Chair in Academic Medicine, and Professor of Pathology at Cedars Sinai Medical Center. He previously held positions as the Ramzi S. Cotran Professor of Pathology at Harvard Medical School, Chair of Pathology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Prior to that the Rorke Professor of Pathology at the University of Pennsylvania, Chair of Pathology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr. Golden received his BA from the University of California, San Diego and his MD from the University of Pennsylvania. He trained in anatomic pathology and neuropathology at the Massachusetts General Hospital followed by postdoctoral training in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Golden's research has focused on understanding the developmental, molecular and cellular basis of neurodevelopmental disorders. He has had a particular interest in cell migration and differentiation of cortical interneurons and their relationship to epilepsy, intellectual disabilities and autism spectrum disorder. He has also contributed to our understanding of human pathology in these and related areas. His work has been published in leading journals including Nature, Nature Genetics, Cell, and Neuron, among others, and he has received numerous awards and given invited lectures nationally and internationally.

Dr. Golden has served in many national and international positions including organizing numerous meetings, past president of the American Association of Neuropathologists, past president-elect (recused) for the Association of Pathology Chairs (now Association of Academic Pathologists), elected member of the Pluto Society (by Academic Pathology Chairs), and past chair of the Brigham and Women's Physician Association Board. He currently serves on the editorial board of multiple journals and is the associate editor of the Journal of Neuropathology and Experimental Neurology. He has also edited two textbooks. Dr. Golden has served on numerous NIH study sections (including chairing one section for 3 years) and has reviewed for numerous other granting agencies nationally and internationally.

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Joyce Sackey, MD, FACP

Stanford University
Chief Community Engagement Officer
Alternate for Linda Boxer

Joyce A. Sackey, MD, FACP is the inaugural Chief Community Engagement Officer for Stanford Medicine. Dr. Sackey is Clinical Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean within the Stanford School of Medicine. She reports to Dean Lloyd Minor, and CEOs David Entwistle and Paul King, and she is responsible for designing, developing, and driving enterprise-wide strategies and efforts to advance inclusive excellence, community engagement, and justice. In addition, Sackey supports and unifies existing community engagement efforts underway at the School of Medicine, Stanford Medicine Children's Health, and Stanford Health Care.

Prior to joining Stanford Medicine, Dr. Sackey was Associate Provost and Chief Diversity Officer for Tufts University's Health Sciences campuses in Boston and Grafton. She was also the Dr. Jane Murphy Gaughan Professor and Dean for Multicultural Affairs and Global Health at Tufts University School of Medicine (TUSM), where she oversaw the school's key diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. She also oversaw TUSM's global health programs, including the coordination of opportunities for students to gain exposure to global public health and health care delivery in international settings. She served as co-chair of the steering committee that oversaw the development of the medical school's recent strategic plan (SP). Implementation of the five-year SP is currently underway.

Prior to joining TUSM, Dr. Sackey was Assistant Professor of Medicine and Associate Director and Advisor for William Augustus Hinton Society at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and was a staff attending physician at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC), where she also completed her residency in internal medicine and served as Primary Care Chief Resident. She completed advanced fellowship training in medical education and was a Senior Rabkin fellow at the Shapiro Institute for Education and Research at BIDMC and HMS.

Dr. Sackey received her undergraduate degree from Dartmouth College, and her medical degree from Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. She is a Trustee of Dartmouth College and served on the Geisel Board of Advisors. Dr. Sackey has served on many other boards, including the Management Sciences for Health (MSH), Foundation for African Relief (FAR) and is current member of the Board of Directors for the Shapiro Institute for Education and Research at BIDMC and HMS.

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Stephen Smale, PhD

University of California, Los Angeles
Acting Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine
Alternate for Judy Gasson

Stephen T. Smale, PhD, was Vice Dean for Research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA from 2015-2021 and is the current Acting Vice Dean for Research. He is also the Sherie L. and Donald G. Morrison Chair of Molecular Immunology, a Distinguished Professor of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics at UCLA, and a former Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator.

Dr. Smale received an AB in Chemistry from Cornell University and a PhD in Biochemistry from the University of California, Berkeley under the mentorship of Dr. Robert Tjian. He then was a Helen Hay Whitney Foundation postdoctoral fellow with

previously served as Vice Chair of the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Molecular Genetics, Director of Basic and Translational Research for the UCLA Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Director of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science Education Program at UCLA, Director of the UCLA-Caltech Medical Scientist Training Program, and founding Chair of the School of Medicine's Research Initiative in Immunity, Inflammation, infection, and Transplantation (I3T). From 2021-2025, Dr. Smale was a Senior Director for the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He serves on the editorial advisory boards for the journals Immunity, Genes & Development, and Trends in Immunology, and is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The research in Dr. Smale's lab spans the areas of gene regulation, inflammation, molecular immunology, and stem cell biology. A major interest is the molecular mechanisms of pro-inflammatory gene regulation, with an emphasize on the genomic

orchestrate selective inflammatory and innate immune responses to microbial and environmental threats.

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Suzanne Sandmeyer, PhD
University of California, Irvine
Director, Genomics Research & Technology Hub
Professor, Biological Chemistry
Alternate for Shauna Stark

Suzanne Sandmeyer, PhD, is Director of the Genomics Research & Technology Hub and Professor of Biological Chemistry at the University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine. She formerly served as Vice Dean for Research whereupon she oversaw a team that worked to support biomedical research development, innovation and translation into public benefits. She is committed to applying emerging technologies including stem cell technologies to improvements in the efficiency and efficacy of health care for individuals while reducing costs.

Sandmeyer first joined the UC Irvine Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and subsequently transferred as Chair to the Department of Biological Chemistry. Her research laboratory strives to understand the genomic impact of retrovirus-like elements by probing how they utilize host functions to replicate and target integration into the host genome. In addition, her laboratory has used genomics technology to develop oleaginous yeast as a respiratory single-cell metabolic model. As Director of a UCI genomics and bioinformatics facility, she has taken an active role in promoting the accessibility of emerging genomics technologies.

Sandmeyer has served on national advisory panels, including the NCI Basic Sciences Board of Scientific Counselors, Genetics Study Section, and NIH Director's New Innovator Award Editorial Panel. She is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Sandmeyer earned her BA degree from Carleton College and her PhD in biochemistry from the University of Washington. She trained in molecular genetics as a Damon Runyon postdoctoral fellow with Maynard Olson, PhD, at Washington University.

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Donald Taylor, PhD, MBA, CLP

UC Davis Health
Chief Ventures Officer
Alternate for Kim Barrett

Donald P. Taylor is the inaugural Chief Ventures Officer of UC Davis Health Ventures, where he leads efforts to partner with innovation, entrepreneurship, and industry teams to commercialize human health intellectual property and advance research translation for clinical and financial impact. Before UC Davis, Dr. Taylor was Executive Director of Licensing at Ohio State, where he led a team overseeing licensing and intellectual property for over $1.3B in annual research across 16 colleges, including the College of Medicine and Wexner Medical Center. Prior to Ohio State, he served as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Commercial Translation in Health Sciences, Executive Director of sciVelo, co-director of the Center for Commercial Applications of Healthcare Data, and Associate Professor of Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh from 2016 to 2021. At Pitt, he worked with the health sciences and engineering schools to commercialize health sciences research and intellectual property and also served as Associate Director of Entrepreneurship for the Center for Medical Innovation. He taught courses on medical product entrepreneurship and innovation at Pitt and was a Senior Lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University, where he taught healthcare IT innovation and entrepreneurial methods.

A five-time life sciences entrepreneur, Dr. Taylor previously served as vice president of corporate development at Cellumen, a bio-tools drug discovery company, and its spin-off, Cernostics, a cancer diagnostics company. He was also a global pharmaceutical market segment manager at Thermo Fisher Scientific, leading marketing campaigns for a $400M portfolio. Before that, he held business development roles at Vivisimo, later acquired by IBM, and co-founded NetHealth, the largest EMR provider for the wound healing market. He has also served on the boards of several biotech companies and spent six years in life sciences economic development and venture investment as an Executive in Residence at the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse.

Dr. Taylor's research in breast cancer metastasis and cell therapies has been published in high-impact journals like Cancer Research, and he was invited to present at the American Association for Cancer Research. He is a co-inventor on a patent filed from his research in cell therapy within the related field of wound healing.

In 2023, Dr. Taylor was conferred as a distinguished alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh for his pioneering work in biomedical entrepreneurship and research translation. Dr. Taylor earned a BS in information systems from Carnegie Mellon University and his MS, PhD in bioengineering, and MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, where he also completed postdoctoral research in pathology.