

CIRM

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR
REGENERATIVE MEDICINE

Grants Working Group Recommendations

DISC5 Discovery Awards

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Agenda

- ① DISC5 Program Overview
- ② Review Process
- ③ Recommendations

DISC5 Program Objective

To fund exploratory and innovative foundational research led by pairs of investigators applying a range of technologies and approaches to address knowledge gaps or bottlenecks in stem cell biology or regenerative medicine.



DISC5

Scope of DISC5 awards

DISC5 projects should aim to achieve (1 or more):

1. Fundamental understanding of human stem and progenitor cells as they pertain to human health and disease.
2. Use of stem cells to interrogate disease mechanisms to uncover biological insights that could enable therapeutic target and/or biomarker discovery.
3. Mechanistic insights to address key scientific or technical bottlenecks in stem cell, gene therapy, and/or other regenerative medicine approaches.
4. Applicability of stem cells, gene therapies, and/or other regenerative medicine approaches to all affected populations.

DISC5 Program Contributes to These Impact Goals

Goal 1: Catalyze the identification and validation of at least four novel targets and biomarkers, ensuring integration into preclinical or clinical research for diseases in California

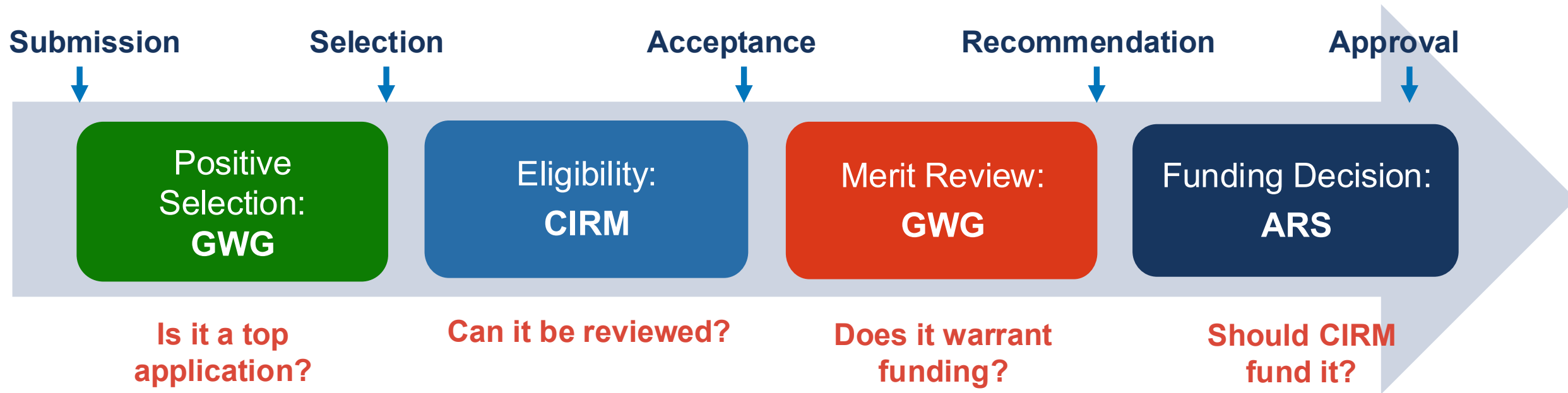
Goal 2: Accelerate the development and utilization of 5-8 technologies that have the potential to improve safety, efficacy, and/or quality of cell and gene therapies

DISC5 Program Structure

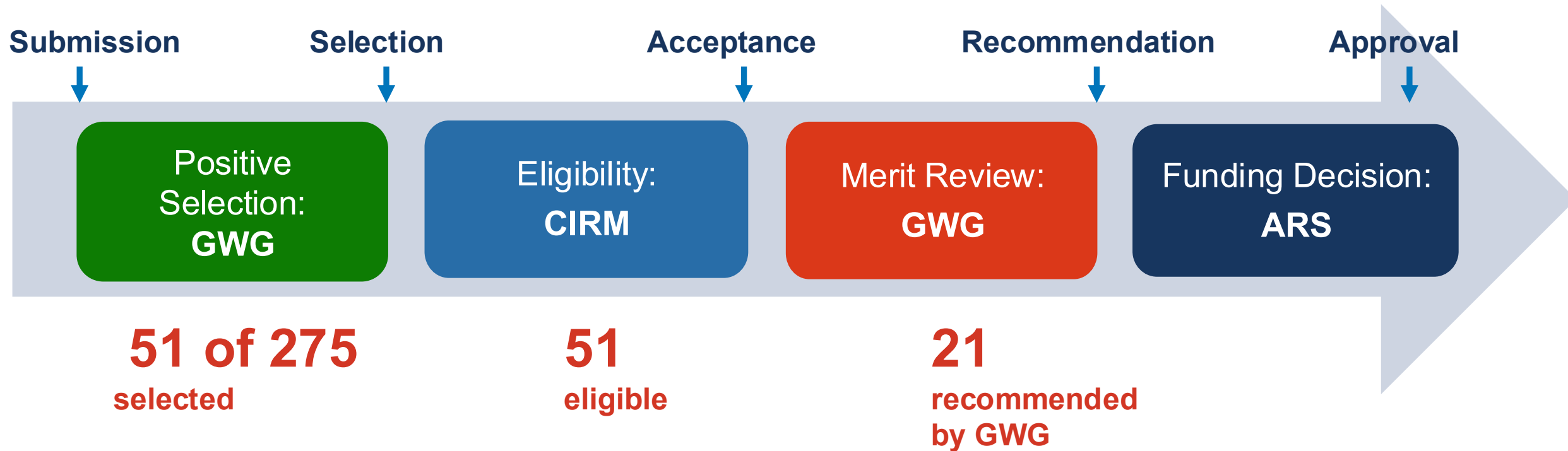
	DISC5
Recurrence	1x per year
Max Duration	3 years
Applicant Team	California organization with one Principal Investigator plus one Co-Investigator
Max Award (Total Cost)	\$2.5 M
Awards/Year	~21 awards
Allocation 2026/27	\$52.5 M

Review Process

DISC5 Application and Review Process

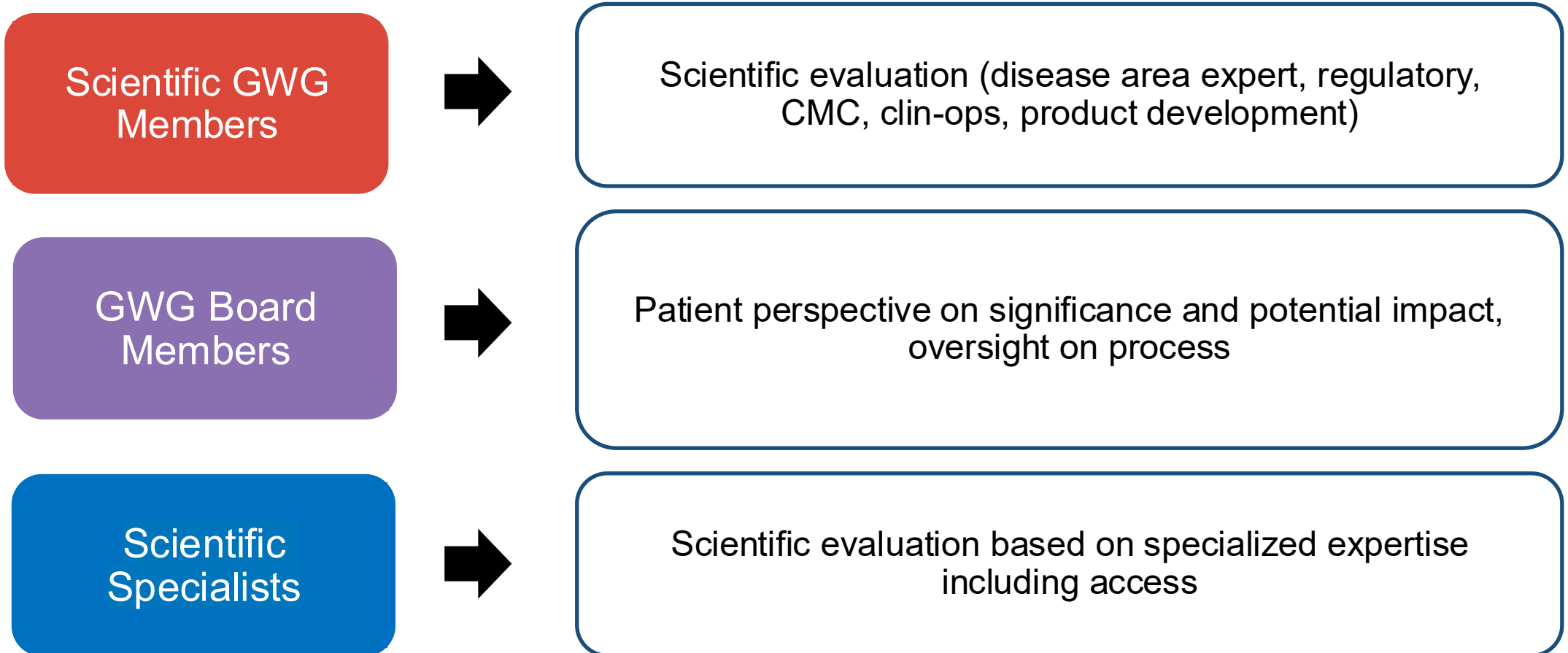


DISC5 Application and Review Process



DISC5 GWG Panel Composition and Roles

Who participates and how they contribute



Scientific Scoring System

Using the 1 to 100 scale

- **Median score of 85-100:** Exceptional merit and warrants funding, if funds are available.
- **Median score of 1-84:** Not recommended for funding.
- Scoring is holistic and based upon all facets of the expert review.
- GWG are encouraged to make full use of the scoring range to signal their enthusiasm for each project.

DISC5 Scientific Review Criteria

- **Significance** - Evaluate the project's significance and potential for impact
- **Innovation** - Evaluate the project for innovation relative to the current state of research
- **Rationale** - Evaluate the scientific rationale in the proposal
- **Plan and Design** - Evaluate the project's plan and design
- **Population Impact** – Evaluate the extent to which the project considers the potential impact of successful outcomes across affected populations

Recommendations

GWG Recommendations

Recommendation	Number of Apps	Total Applicant Request	Funds Available
Recommended for funding	21	\$52,425,400	\$52,500,000
Not recommended for funding	30		

For each award, the final award amount shall not exceed the amount approved by the ICOC Application Review Subcommittee and may be reduced contingent on CIRM's assessment of allowable costs and activities.

Minority Reports

- Under Prop 14, any application that is not recommended for funding by the GWG, but which had 35% or more members score to fund the application must include a minority report.
- The minority report is included in the review summary and provides a brief synopsis of the opinion of reviewers that scored the application 85 or above.

Applications with Minority Report

App #	Budget Request	GWG Score	Lo	Hi	Y	N	CIRM Recommendation
DISC5-20142	\$2,499,999	84	81	90	5	8	DO NOT FUND
DISC5-19775	\$2,494,573	83	75	88	7	8	DO NOT FUND
DISC5-19843	\$2,500,000	83	70	85	6	9	DO NOT FUND
DISC5-19705	\$2,481,613	82	74	88	6	9	DO NOT FUND

CIRM Team Recommendations

The CIRM Team recommendation to the ARS:

- Fund the 21 applications recommended by the GWG for a total amount of \$52,425,400.
- Do not fund the remaining applications, including those with a minority report.