

**RFA 08-03 Concept Proposal:  
CIRM Research Training Program**

The growth of stem cell research in California will require the scientific training of individuals at all levels to provide a continuing supply of scientists with the knowledge and skill to lead effective research programs. The CIRM Research Training Program was developed to foster and enhance the research experience of basic and clinical scientists during the doctoral and immediate postdoctoral stages of their career.

In April of 2006, CIRM awarded three-year training grants to 16 California non-profit, academic institutions. CIRM wishes to continue its support of training programs at the pre-doctoral, postdoctoral and clinical fellow levels by issuing a new RFA that will solicit applications from currently funded institutions as well as from institutions proposing new programs.

Applicant institutions may choose to compete within one of three categories that are available to accommodate the varied institutional capabilities.

**Type I - Comprehensive training programs:** Comprehensive programs offer training at all three educational levels: pre-doctoral, post-doctoral and clinical fellow. Each institutional grant may support up to 16 trainees, with a total (direct and indirect) cost/budget of up to \$1.31M per year. The apportionment of trainees among the different levels of education is determined by the institution. Type I grantees may include universities with medical schools that have large research programs in stem cell research and well-established programs of graduate training.

**Type II - Intermediate training programs:** Intermediate programs offer training at two of the three levels of education (e.g., pre-doctoral and post-doctoral; post-doctoral and clinical fellow; or pre-doctoral and clinical fellow). Each award may support up to 10 trainees, with a total (direct and indirect costs) budget of up to \$840,000 per year. Type II grantees may include institutions that may have less extensive stem cell research programs, but with strong training opportunities.

**Type III - Specialized training programs:** Specialized programs offer training at one or two levels of education. Each grant may support up to 6 trainees, with a total (direct and indirect costs) budget of up to \$525,000 per year. Grantees may include, for example, institutions with relatively small but developing stem cell research programs.

CIRM Research Training Program awards will be available to public colleges and universities and to non-profit academic and research institutions in California. Institutions wishing to include training of pre-doctoral students must have an accredited graduate program in biology or biomedical sciences. All training programs must offer one or more classes in stem cell biology and its application to health and disease, and a required course in the social, legal and ethical implications of stem cell research, along with other training activities. Moreover, all programs must offer opportunities for laboratory work under the direction of a mentor in stem cell biology or clinical training that is closely related to stem cell research. Training programs are subject to the policies and conditions outlined in the CIRM Grants Administration Policy for Non-Profit and Academic Institutions.

CIRM will accept only one application per institution. CIRM proposes an allocation of \$48M to fund up to 18 programs for three years.

**Provisional Timetable**

RFA Release	June 2008
Review of Applications	November 2008
ICOC Approval	Early 2009