



EDUARDO MARBÁN, M.D., PH.D.

DIRECTOR, CEDARS-SINAI HEART INSTITUTE

MARK S. SIEGEL FAMILY PROFESSOR

June 17, 2011

Sherry Lansing  
Sherry Lansing Foundation  
2121 Avenue of the Stars  
Suite 2020  
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Dear Ms. Lansing:

As the Director of the Heart Institute at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, and PI of a CIRM Disease Team, I am pleased to write in exceptionally strong support of Frank Litvack's candidacy for the chairmanship of CIRM. I have gotten to know Dr. Litvack fairly well in the four years since I moved to California. Among other interactions, I have sought his advice as voluntary chair of a task force to generate staffing recommendations for the Heart Institute, and have shared the podium with him at numerous medical conferences. I believe that Dr. Litvack would be a very effective chair of CIRM, for the following reasons:

**Frank Litvack is a compassionate physician.** That means that he will fully appreciate the potential impact of new therapies on real people, and thus that he will be able to function as a strong advocate for CIRM statewide on behalf of afflicted patients and their loved ones. Dr. Litvack retired from full-time patient care about ten years ago in order to pursue entrepreneurial activities. Nevertheless, until approximately one year ago, Frank still practiced cardiology, seeing his old patients in follow-up here at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, usually on a pro bono basis. I have rarely witnessed greater devotion from a physician to his patients, a devotion which was fully reciprocated. With his help, we have since transitioned his patients to other exceptional clinicians, but several of his patients have expressed to me, in an unsolicited manner, their nostalgia for the days when Frank was their doctor.

**Frank Litvack is a translational scientist.** He has developed new diagnostic and therapeutic strategies for coronary heart disease, from the level of concept all the way through advanced clinical testing. These strategies include novel methods for looking directly into diseased vessels (coronary angioscopy), methods to clean out blocked vessels using lasers (excimer laser atherectomy), and new stent technologies. Thus, he has "walked the walk" of translation, which is so important to the advancement


of CIRM's goals of developing real treatments for real people. He also appreciates, firsthand, the importance of fundamental discoveries in laying the groundwork for new revolutionary treatments.

**Frank Litvack is a successful businessman and entrepreneur.** One of CIRM's goals is to improve the economy of the state of California by the creation of new companies and new jobs. Another, related goal is to disseminate the fruits of scientific discovery and clinical trials such that the resulting advances in medical care can be freely accessible to all Californians. Dr. Litvack's record of successful creation of new companies, dedicated to developing new products, gives him the practical knowledge to maximize the likelihood of success in those aspects of CIRM's mission.

**Frank Litvack is an energetic, disciplined leader.** On numerous occasions I have witnessed firsthand Dr. Litvack's uncanny ability to move fluidly from one project to the next, without skipping a beat. He has a laser-like focus which makes him extremely effective in his advocacy and leadership. Were he to undertake the CIRM job on a part-time basis, I have no doubt that he would provide effective leadership at least equivalent to that which others might provide in a full-time appointment. Dr. Litvack is also an articulate, passionate motivational speaker, an asset that will be invaluable in the looming campaign to renew CIRM funding by the voters of California.

In summary, my knowledge of Dr. Litvack makes me exceptionally bullish about his candidacy for the chairmanship of CIRM. Many of us lament the passing of the Bob Klein era, given Bob's visionary role in the founding of CIRM and his able stewardship of its growth over the last several years. Frank Litvack is a worthy successor to Bob Klein, and I am confident that he would bring numerous unique assets to the job that will allow the Institute to reach new and unprecedented heights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eduardo Marban".

Eduardo Marbán, M.D., Ph.D.