

**THE SCIENTIFIC AND MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING WORKING GROUP OF
THE
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE**

**Proposed change in bylaws for the selection and appointment of the chair for
Grants Working Group**

CIRM is broadening its RFA profile to include translational, preclinical and clinical trial research, which requires a very different reviewer expertise from basic research and training. Consequently, there is an important need to have chairs of CIRM review panels with the expertise and seniority that is complementary to the type of RFA being considered.

The role of Chair of the Grants Working Group (GWG) by way of current policy rests on one appointed individual, but in practice requires the breadth and expertise of several individuals. Overall, the chair leads the GWG in providing advice and recommendations to the Independent Citizens Oversight Committee (ICOC) on both the scientific merit of applications for funding submitted to CIRM and on policy issues that relate to the management of applications and awards.

As CIRM will conduct on average 5 to 7 GWG review meetings per year in San Francisco, it is impractical to have a single individual chair all of these reviews. In fact, chairs of typical NIH study sections will rarely meet more than twice per year.

With the aim of improving the process by which the GWG conducts its reviews, the GWG proposes that the ICOC amend the GWG bylaws to allow the appointment of one scientific member as the standing Administrative Chair of the Grants Working Group and also to authorize the CIRM President to appoint an appropriate GWG scientific member (or alternate member) as the Acting Chair for each review meeting.

The role of the Acting Chair of the GWG will be to preside over the scientific evaluation of grant or loan applications submitted to CIRM in response to a specific RFA. The Acting Chair should have the knowledge and background that is necessary to lead the review of proposals under that RFA. The duties of the Acting Chair commence upon the President's appointment to the review and encompass any GWG business related to the scientific review of that RFA, including the consideration of formal appeals after the review.

The role of the Administrative Chair of the Grants Working Group will be to preside over general GWG business, which includes recommendations to the ICOC of standards for scientific oversight of grant applications or awards as well as the scientific evaluation of grant or loan applications that have not been designated to a particular RFA or review meeting.