

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

Approval of Honorarium for Review Activities of the Working Group

Scientific members of the Grants Working Group provide an invaluable and essential service to the CIRM by providing their expert advice and recommendations on the scientific merit of applications submitted to CIRM for funding. For any given review, participating working group members dedicate, at a minimum, the better part of a week or even more to the careful evaluation of assigned applications prior to attending a review meeting in San Francisco. Once at the review meeting, scientific members discuss, evaluate and score applications, typically during a rigorous one to two-day session.

The best reviewers are often asked by multiple funding organizations to provide advice and to help in grant reviews. Therefore, CIRM needs to be competitive in providing them honoraria if we are to retain them for the important job of grants reviews.

Consequently, to compensate our reviewers appropriately for their essential and highly skilled work, the Interim President requests that the current honorarium of \$500 per day of service at the review meeting be changed to an honorarium of \$2000 for the evaluation of grant applications, which covers their extensive preparation time in reviewing grants at their home institutions.

The Interim President additionally requests that an honorarium for participation in non-review meetings, which occur primarily by teleconference to provide recommendations on RFA concepts or policies, remain at the current level of \$500 per meeting.

Approval of an Adjustable Honorarium for Subject Specialists

CIRM from time to time acquires the help of subject experts or Specialists to participate in the review process. These Specialists do not vote but provide in-depth knowledge of special and specific areas of science. They are assigned to review select applications based on the needed expertise, participate in the discussion of the assigned applications by teleconference, and answer questions that may arise from the Working Group.

The ICOC previously approved compensation in the amount of \$400 to Specialists for their review activities. Because Specialists are recruited to assist with a varied number of applications ranging from 2 and as many as 10 applications, the workload is quite variable. Consequently, the Interim President requests approval to provide an adjustable honorarium that is commensurate with the number of applications to be evaluated by the Specialist. We propose that each Specialist that participates in a review be compensated with a base amount of \$400 and an additional \$100 for each application he/she evaluates.