

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-03
A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
HONORING ALAN O. TROUNSON FOR HIS SERVICE TO
THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE,
STEM CELL RESEARCH, AND CALIFORNIA PATIENTS

WHEREAS, Alan O. Trounson, over a career spanning more than 40 years, has been a researcher, academic, entrepreneur, and leader in the fields of in vitro fertilization and regenerative medicine;

WHEREAS, Dr. Trounson received his undergraduate and master's degrees from the University of New South Wales School of Wool and Pastoral Sciences and his Ph.D. from Sydney University;

WHEREAS, Dr. Trounson served as the Dalgety Postdoctoral Fellow at the ARC Institute of Biochemistry and Reproductive Biology, where his research involved oocyte and embryo manipulation, embryo freezing, and non-surgical methods for embryo transfer in cattle, sheep, and other species;

WHEREAS, Dr. Trounson joined Professor Carl Wood at Monash University in 1977 to pioneer human in vitro fertilization (IVF), and in the mid-1990s, led a team to discover human embryonic stem cells and directed their differentiation into nerve and other tissue cells, leading to a publication in 2000;

WHEREAS, Dr. Trounson founded the Australian Stem Cell Centre in 2003, where he served as Chief Executive Officer, and the Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories in 2004, which is recognized as one of the world's leading stem cell research institutes;

WHEREAS, Dr. Trounson co-founded the Low Cost IVF Foundation in 2007 and Friends of Low Cost IVF USA in 2011 in order to provide reproductive services to under-resourced populations in Africa and elsewhere and to educate and empower women for use of safe and effective reproductive health;

WHEREAS, Dr. Trounson has received numerous awards and honors, including the Welcome Australia Medal (1991), Patrick Steptoe Memorial Medal (1994), Benjamin Sheares Medal (1995), Barbara Eck Menning Medal (1997), International Academy of Reproductive Medicine Award (1999), Amoroso Award Society of Reproduction and Fertility (2002), Centenary Medal of Australia (2002), Bertarelli Foundation Award (2003), Dr Hon Causa, Vrije Univ Brussels (2003), Honorary Fellow Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (2005), Fellow ad eundem, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (2007), Emeritus Professor, Monash University (2008), Lifetime Medal – Monash University (2008), the David de Kretser Medal (2009), Lifetime Membership of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (2010), and Dr Laws honis causa, Monash University (2011);

WHEREAS, CIRM's Governing Board appointed Dr. Trounson as CIRM's President in 2007, a position in which he served for more than six years;

WHEREAS, as CIRM's President, Dr. Trounson has led CIRM's major facilities program, which resulted in the construction of 12 new stem cell research facilities in California; developed training programs for new scientists entering stem cell science, drawing a large number of M.D.-Ph.D. and Ph.D. researchers into the discipline; helped establish the "Bridges to Stem Cell Research" and "Creativity Awards", which, respectively, enable California State University and community college students to train in California's major stem cell research centers and biotech companies, and high school students to spend summer vacations training in stem cell centers while also focusing on another discipline, like music or physics; overseen the extraordinary development of basic research in the field of regenerative medicine, which has led to more than 1,000 publications during his tenure as President; and led the translation of some of these discoveries into translational development and clinical trials for potential new treatments of blood cancers and solid tumors, spinal cord injury, a cure of HIV/AIDS, and treatments for macular degeneration, type I diabetes, ALS, stroke, heart disease, genetic diseases, and neurodegenerative diseases;

WHEREAS, Dr. Trounson has also established collaborative funding agreements with 22 funding agencies in other nations and states to leverage CIRM's funding and to accelerate regenerative medicine research by enabling California's scientists to collaborate on research projects with their colleagues around the world; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Trounson, through his experience, commitment, knowledge, and leadership, contributed greatly to the momentum of discovery and the future therapies which will be the ultimate outcome of the dedicated work of the researchers receiving CIRM funding.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, on behalf of the people of the State of California, wishes to express its deepest gratitude to Alan O. Trounson, for his service as CIRM's President and for his dedication to the advancement of stem cell research and to the mission of finding therapies and cures for patients who suffer from chronic disease and injury and for their families.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Date Approved: _____

Signed: _____

Jonathan Y. Thomas
Chairman, Governing Board
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine