



RESOLUTION NO. 2015-02
A RESOLUTION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD
OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
HONORING JOAN SAMUELSON FOR HER SERVICE TO
THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE,
STEM CELL RESEARCH, AND CALIFORNIA PATIENTS

WHEREAS, Samuelson, a lifetime Californian, earned her Bachelor's Degree at the University of California at Los Angeles and her law degree at the University of California at Berkeley;

WHEREAS, Joan Samuelson began her career in public policy on the staff of U.S. Senator John Tunney and later worked with the California Coastal Commission while she pursued her law degree;

WHEREAS, during her 20-year career as a lawyer, Samuelson specialized in civil litigation and alternative dispute resolution;

WHEREAS, Samuelson left the practice of law after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease in 1987 in order to create an advocacy voice for the Parkinson's community, seek greater research freedom, increase research funding, and accelerate the search for a cure;

WHEREAS, Samuelson founded the Parkinson's Action Network in 1991 and successfully engaged Congress and the executive branch via a series of national patient advocacy campaigns, resulting in the enactment of the seminal Morris K. Udall Parkinson's Research Act in 1997 and a tenfold increase in Parkinson's research funding;

WHEREAS, Samuelson has served in numerous advisory roles relating to biomedical research and health policy, including as an Independent Report Reviewer for the 2004 Report of the National Academies of Science Institute of Medicine on NIH Extramural Centers Programs; on the Advisory Committee to the Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, and in 2004 as Patient Advocate on the Medicare Consumer Advisory Committee;

WHEREAS, Samuelson has received numerous awards for her advocacy work, including the Molly and Bernard Sanberg Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Society for Neural Therapy and Repair, a Doctor of Humane Letters Honoris Causa from California Lutheran University, the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Parkinson's Institute, the Distinguished Service Award from the Alumni Association, University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, and the Hall of Fame Award from the California Federation of Business and Professional Women;

WHEREAS, Samuelson played an active role in the campaign resulting in the 2004 passage of Proposition 71, which created the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

WHEREAS, Controller Steve Westly appointed Samuelson to CIRM's Governing Board in 2004 to represent the Parkinson's community, and Controller John Chiang reappointed Samuelson in 2012;

WHEREAS, as a founding member of CIRM's Governing Board, Samuelson brought a wealth of knowledge, insight, and experience to CIRM;

WHEREAS, Samuelson served as the Vice Chair of the Grants Working Group and as a member of the Facilities Working Group and the Governance and Science Subcommittees; and

WHEREAS, Joan Samuelson, through her 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 Joan Samuelson, for her service on CIRM's Governing Board and for her 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