



THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR REGENERATIVE MEDICINE
Office of the Vice-Chair

Dear Fellow Board Members,

I am writing to ask for your support one last time to serve as your Vice Chair.

Nothing compares in my professional career to the inspirational work we do here at CIRM. I have never experienced the same exhilaration and profound impact in speaking with patients, doctors, and leaders both in the Legislature or the Congress about our work. We are for cures and I have been proud to play a role.

Throughout my tenure I have been working with our statewide constitutional officers, Members of our Legislature and Congress, both Democrat and Republican, in California and in other states.

Every member of the legislature or Congress whose district receives one of our grants has been informed of our work both in their areas and throughout the state. I successfully led the effort to increase our scientific staff and for more transparency, requiring a performance audit every third year of our agency.

Dr. Mills and I have met with our Secretary of Veteran Affairs at the national level as well as with our constitutional statewide officers and legislative leaders. We will have a close and meaningful relationship with our new US Senator, Kamala Harris; she is one of our greatest supporters.

I have also had the pleasure of attending every Grants Working Group meeting and providing reviews as a patient advocate for cancer and osteoarthritis; and, to meet and work with our stellar doctors and researchers who have provided their advice on so many potential grants.

I have also had a close and meaningful relationship with our Chair, Dr. Jonathan Thomas. I believe we have made a strong leadership team for CIRM. JT has shown his commitment, resilience and hard working values to our core beneficiaries: our patients. He deserves to be reelected to a final term as well.

I was proud to have been appointed by the Senate to the five-member Covered California board, which oversees Obamacare in California. It is a pro bono position but provides us a look at how future treatments may be funded through our third party payers. It will be a challenge to all of us.

I have also brought our vision and accomplishments to international venues recently addressing over 350 German and Middle Eastern CEOs and parliamentarians in Bavaria; and, then helped to open the World Stem Cell Summit in Leipzig, Germany, both I must add not at state or public expense.

My thanks again for permitting me to serve and I look forward to one last term as your Vice Chair.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Art'.