



TO: Members, Governing Board, CIRM

FROM: James C. Harrison, General Counsel

DATE: December 5, 2016

RE: Proposed Amendments to DISC and TRAN Concept Plans

Background

The Board approved concept plans for CIRM's Discovery ("DISC") and Translation ("TRAN") programs on July 23, 2015, and additional amendments on September 24, 2015. After further consideration of the concept plans and with more than a year's worth of experience implementing these programs, the CIRM team would like to make a modification regarding eligibility. As discussed in more detail below, the CIRM team proposes to limit eligibility to California organizations.

Proposed Amendments

Under the current concept plans for the DISC and TRAN programs, non-California organizations are permitted to apply for funding for work conducted in California. A non-California organization is defined as an organization that pays and employs 50% or less of its employees in California. This policy was based on CIRM's clinical research ("CLIN") program, which was designed to ensure that CIRM had the ability to attract the best research clinical programs to California. Given the relatively small number of programs that were ready for clinical testing in California and nationally, the CIRM team believed, and continues to believe, that this policy is critical to the success of our CLIN program. However, based on our experience, this policy is not necessary to ensure the success of CIRM's TRAN and DISC programs. In fact, as we have recently experienced, the number of proposed TRAN projects that are recommended for funding has exceeded our budget, and we believe the demand for DISC awards will likewise exceed available funding. Simply put, given the quality and volume of pre-clinical work being conducted at California institutions, permitting non-California organizations to apply for funding for work conducted in California is not necessary to achieve CIRM's aims. The CIRM team therefore proposes to amend the TRAN and DISC concept plans to limit eligibility for funding for the TRAN and DISC programs to California organizations, defined as organizations that pay and employ more than 50% of the organization's employees in California. We intend to apply this change, if approved, prospectively.

Requested Action: CIRM requests the Board approve the proposed amendments to the TRAN and DISC concept plans.

Attachments