

Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1650
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: letter of Support for Dr. Gaensler's project: Developing engineered autologous leukemia vaccines to target residual leukemic stem cells

Dear Members of the Governing Board and Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine:

My name is Aaron Sasson and I am writing as a patient and community advocate to urge you to fund Dr. Karin Gaensler's leukemia vaccine program. To me the need for novel therapies is personal. The diagnosis of a hematological malignancy has affected my family, as has the critically important opportunity to participate in a clinical trial here in California. We urgently need new treatments with the potential to prolong remission without the terrible toxicities of chemotherapy.

I have a great interest in furthering biomedical research that may offer new opportunities to patients and have financially supported research at UCSF (Dr. Gaensler's research) and UCSD (Dr. Kipps research with Cirmtuzumab).

Dr. Gaensler is not only a committed scientist and physician. But her selfless passion, tenacity, and hard work are key traits to see this project through. I have followed the development of her work over the past several years. CIRM support is now critical to bring her exciting personalized vaccine, that could target leukemia stem cells, to the clinic where it may have a significant impact on prolonging remission.

I appeal to the governing board and ICOC to provide the resources for Dr. Gaensler to move development of her leukemia vaccine forward.

Sincerely,
Aaron Sasson
Primera Capital