

Real Life™

DISC0 – Foundation Awards

Concept Overview

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CIRM
CALIFORNIA'S STEM CELL AGENCY

OUR MISSION

Accelerating world class science
to deliver transformative
regenerative medicine treatments
in an equitable manner to a
diverse California and world



2006-2020 (Proposition 71)

- **Five Pillars of Investment**

2021 and Beyond (Proposition 14)

- Through CIRM's New Strategic Plan we will **enhance, organize and interconnect** CIRM's proven funding model to achieve the overarching goals.



Concept Presentation



Leading expert input 2019-2021:

- CIRM Brainstorming Neurodegeneration Workshop, April 2019
- CIRM Scientific Strategy Advisory Panel, February 2021

Need for continued research of basic mechanisms of stem cell biology, gene therapy approaches, and disease biology to improve likelihood of clinical success for regenerative therapies

Translated into the CIRM Strategic Plan 2022-2027:

- To realize the full potential of regenerative medicine for society, CIRM is committed to promoting success of high risk/high reward projects

- Advance our understanding of stem cell biology, relevant to human biology and disease
- Advance the development or use of human stem cells as tools for biomedical innovation
- Lead to the greater applicability of regenerative medicine discoveries to communities representing the full spectrum of diversity.
- Advance the application of genetic research, relevant to human biology and disease and as it pertains to stem cells or regenerative medicine

Goal: *To support rigorous studies addressing critical basic knowledge gaps in the biology and application of regenerative medicine approaches to the development of therapies.*

Project Eligibility

- **Define and propose research that addresses a key knowledge gap:**
 - In our understanding of the biology or application of stem cells or progenitor cells; **or**
 - In the application of genetic research (*) as it pertains to stem cells or regenerative medicine

(*) Research that **alters genomic sequences of cells** (edit, remove, or add DNA sequences); **or**

- **Introduces or directly manipulates nucleic acids** (such as mRNAs, antisense oligonucleotides) in cells.

Note: Validate any discoveries made in nonhuman cells with a relevant human cell equivalent

Institution Eligibility

- **California for-profit and non-profit** are eligible to apply

PI Eligibility

- Principal Investigators **must commit at least 20% effort**

Applicants will be required to:

- Develop and execute a Data Sharing Plan (*)
- Allocate funds for personnel and/or activities related to managing and sharing data
- Share data in accordance with FAIR data principles

Note: Application will provide:

- **Templates** for: a) data management and sharing plan and b) allowable costs
- List of **established and available data (*) repositories**

(*) Initial focus is research omics data

	DISC0 Award Budget Components
Maximum direct project costs ^(*) per award	\$1M
Maximum Duration of Awards	3 years

Opportunity available 1-2 times / year

- Approx. 12-14 awards ~ \$20M/round

^(*) Does not include indirect costs. Including indirect costs, the average total cost/project including indirects is \$1.5M

CIRM requests the Board approve the proposed
DISCO – Foundation Awards Program concept

DISCO
Foundation Awards



Basic Discovery Research