

January 30th, 2019

Letter of support for CLIN 1-10953

Dear members of the Board,

Whenever CIRM takes on a challenge, it is because people are suffering—but maybe there is a way to ease the agony. Seldom is this more clear than in the battle against Huntington's. The suffering is unquestionable, and there is no cure: not yet. The disease itself is terrible: like that sentence from Shakespeare, "Those whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad." Huntington's does that. Bad enough that it slowly kills the sufferer physically—15-20 years of suffering before death—but it affects their minds as well. making them sometimes foul-tempered, or removing their good judgment. Huntington's may make the sufferers literally insane. The family constantly has to remind themselves, this is the disease, not him—and they may go through this for decades.

But is there hope for this particular approach: CLIN1-10953? Will Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factors-- sort of nerve fertilizers—help in the fight against Huntington's?

Can the scientists decrease the levels of something called mutant HTT protein—which may in fact cause the condition?

Lastly, will the newly added neural stem cells—healthy ones-- overcome the sickness of Huntington's disease?

One thing we know already. When you think of people qualified to fight Huntington's, here they are: top-notch folks, champions in their field. Some have studied Huntington's for more than 30 years; they examined the possibilities; this is what they believe will help.

I thank the board for its attention. Please give the experts the funding they need to challenge this vile and hateful condition.

Sincerely,

Don C. Reed