

VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT TO REFRAIN FROM ACCEPTING: (1) EMPLOYMENT WITH CIRM-FUNDED ENTITY/APPLICANT FOR ONE YEAR POST-EMPLOYMENT; (2) GIFTS FROM CIRM-FUNDED ENTITY/APPLICANT; AND (3) TRAVEL PAYMENTS FROM CIRM-FUNDED ENTITY/APPLICANT

BACKGROUND

As a taxpayer-funded agency of the State of California, the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) has an obligation to ensure that its funding decisions are based on scientific merit demonstrating the potential to efficiently develop therapies and cures for patients with unmet medical needs while upholding strict ethical standards and avoiding conflicts of interest.

Consistent with this goal, CIRM has established policies and processes in compliance with California's conflict of interest laws. In addition, CIRM has adopted policies that go beyond the requirements of state law to prevent even the appearance of a conflict of interest, including the policies unanimously adopted by the Board in March 2013.

Given that public trust is essential to our success, as President of CIRM, I am imposing even higher standards of conduct for myself with respect to the potential or appearance of conflicts.

First, although state law imposes some restrictions on the activities in which employees may engage after they leave public service, it does not prohibit them from immediately accepting employment with an entity with which their agency has contracted or funded. As President of CIRM, I will not accept employment from any entity that CIRM funds or is attempting to receive CIRM funds for at least one year following my departure.

Second, state law prohibits employees from accepting gifts from individuals or entities that do business with, or are seeking to do business with, their agency *only* when it could be reasonably substantiated that the gift was intended to influence an employee's future official activities or reward him or her for past ones. In addition, state law excludes certain types of payments from the gift rules. For example, home hospitality and gifts exchanged between friends are exempt from the gift limits. As President of CIRM, I will eliminate potential loopholes by committing to not accept gifts from anyone who has or is seeking a contract with CIRM, regardless of the donor's intent or the nature of the gift.

Third, state law includes exceptions to the gift limits for travel payments received from certain sources, such as Universities and nonprofits, and travel payments received in connection with making a speech. As President of CIRM, I will not accept travel payments from anyone who has or is seeking a contract with CIRM, regardless of the source or the reason for the payment.

COMMITMENT

1. For a period of one year after my employment with CIRM, I will not accept employment, or any form of compensation, from: (a) an entity that has an active CIRM award or contract, or has received funds from CIRM in the previous 12 months; or (b) an applicant actively seeking a CIRM contract.

2. As a CIRM employee, I will not accept any gifts or hospitality from: (a) an entity (including individual investigators) that has an active CIRM award or contract, or has received funds from CIRM in the previous 12 months; or (b) an applicant (including individual investigators) actively seeking a CIRM contract.

3. As a CIRM employee, I will not accept travel paid for, or reimbursed in any way, by: (a) an entity (including individual investigators) that has an active CIRM award or contract, or has received funding from CIRM in the previous 12 months; or (b) an applicant (including individual investigators) actively seeking a CIRM contract.


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President and Chief Executive Officer
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

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