

Program Announcement Concept Proposal CIRM Conference Grants

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) recognizes the value of supporting high quality conferences and scientific meetings in the state of California that are relevant to its scientific mission of supporting and advancing stem cell research and regenerative medicine to enable cures, therapies, diagnostics and research technologies for chronic disease and injury. A conference or scientific meeting is defined as a gathering, symposium, seminar, scientific meeting, workshop or any other organized, formal meeting where persons assemble to coordinate, exchange, and disseminate information or to explore or clarify a defined subject, problem, or area of knowledge. This Program Announcement (PA) will support two types of funding opportunities for conferences to be budgeted and paid from funds available for research funding. Under the first type of funding opportunity, the applicant will be solely responsible for planning, directing, and executing a conference or scientific meeting. Multiple year awards may be made to a permanently sponsoring organization for conferences held in California annually or biennially on a recurring topic. The total project period for an application requesting support may not exceed three years.

Under the second type of funding opportunity, the Project Director (PD) retains the primary responsibility and dominant role for planning, directing, and executing the proposed project to be held in California, but will work with CIRM staff to design and implement the event. Such a meeting may be called by CIRM to foster interest in an area important to the Institute or to seek advice on an emerging scientific issue in stem cell biology.

Because the nature and scope of the proposed activities will vary from application to application, it is anticipated that the size and duration of each award will also vary. The total amount awarded and the number of awards will depend upon the number of applications, quality, duration, and costs of the applications received, and on how well the proposed conference meets the needs of CIRM. CIRM proposes to allocate up to \$300,000 annually for conference grant awards. Applications for conference grant awards will be accepted, reviewed and approved on an ongoing basis

Applications for conference grant awards may be submitted by any California-based non-profit organization. Non-Profit organization means either: (1) a governmental entity of the state of California; or (2) a legal entity that is tax exempt under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) and California Revenue and Taxation Code section 23701d.

Out-of-state and foreign institutions are not eligible to apply for conference grant support. An international conference can be supported through a California non-profit organization of an established international scientific or professional society. All CIRM-supported conferences must take place within California

CIRM proposes the following for implementation of this conference grant program.

Contingent upon approval of this concept by the ICOC, CIRM would develop the Conference Grant Program Announcement and submit it to the Scientific and Medical Research Funding Working Group (SMRFG) for their recommendation on funding.

The ICOC would then make the final decision on the proposed program and funding. A key element of the program announcement would be the authority of the President of CIRM to review and make decisions on funding of individual applications for conference grants up to \$50,000. Funding decisions on conference grants in excess of this amount would require ICOC approval. The President would have an annual budget of \$300,000 for conference grants and would report semi-annually to the ICOC on the expenditure of awarded funds. The following will be considered in making funding decisions:

- Merit and relevance of the proposed conference/scientific meeting to CIRM's strategic goals and mission
- Availability of funds.

Provisional Timetable

Concept approval ICOC	January, 2008
SMWFWG Review	Winter/Spring 2008
ICOC Approval of program and funding	Spring 2008
PA release	Spring 2008