

DRAFT

**Policy Regarding Extraordinary Petitions for ICOC Consideration
of Applications for Funding**

CIRM recognizes that applicants have a right under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to communicate with members of the ICOC either in person or in writing in support of their applications for research funding. Currently, however, no guidelines exist for the submission of such communications to the board. To ensure the fairness and integrity of the ICOC's review and to remain true to CIRM's mission of funding the best scientific proposals, it is critical that the ICOC adopt a policy to govern such communications. CIRM's Executive Committee therefore proposes the following policy:

1. An extraordinary petition for ICOC consideration of an application must be submitted in writing at least five days prior to the ICOC meeting at which the application will be considered for funding. The petition shall succinctly (five pages or less) set forth the basis for the request for special consideration. To ensure adequate time for thoughtful consideration, letters submitted after this date will not be considered.
2. To ensure full distribution of extraordinary petitions, they should be directed to the Chairman of the ICOC and to the President and the Chief Scientific Officer of CIRM. CIRM staff will then distribute the petitions to the board and post them on CIRM's website.
3. The President of CIRM, in consultation with the Chief Scientific Office and scientific staff, will review the petition and make a recommendation, with supporting analysis, to the ICOC as follows: the petition challenges the conclusions of the Grants Working Group and either has merit or has no merit.
4. If an ICOC member requests ICOC consideration of a petition, CIRM staff will provide its analysis of such petition to the board during its consideration of the application.
5. The ICOC retains full discretion to consider or not consider the petitions and the CIRM staff analyses before making its final funding decisions.