

**CIRM Support for Attendance at ISSCR Annual Meeting by Patient Advocates,
CIRM Bridges Scholars and CIRM-Funded Early Career Scientists**

Last year, CIRM awarded a conference grant to the International Society for Stem Cell Research (“ISSCR”) to support participation by patient advocates and CIRM-funded early career researcher in ISSCR’s annual meeting in San Francisco. Given the late announcement of the program, it is surprising that a total of 88 young California researchers and ten California representatives of patient advocacy organizations participated in ISSCR’s annual meeting as a result of CIRM’s support. Given the success of the program, the Office of the Chair would like to offer support again this year. Because ISSCR’s annual meeting will be held in Toronto, however, this cannot be accomplished through a conference grant.¹

The Office of the Chair therefore proposes that the Board enter into a contract with ISSCR to administer a travel scholarship program to support the participation of young California researchers and California representatives of patient advocacy organizations in the ISSCR meeting. The cost per participant is estimated to be approximately \$2,000 (inclusive of registration, travel and hotel). We therefore propose to allocate \$200,000 to ISSCR to support up to 80 young California researchers who are actively involved in a CIRM-fund grant (including Bridges to Stem Cell Research, Research Training Grants, and other research award programs) and up to 40 California representatives of patient advocacy organizations. In order to preserve CIRM’s administrative funds, the Office of the Chair proposes to use donor funds to support this program. The Office of the Chair will work directly with ISSCR to establish administrative guidelines for the program, and will direct and manage the program, as well as communication with all participants, in order to streamline and most effectively administer the program. Consistent with the program last year, the Office of the Chair will handle this program in its entirety to make certain there is no additional burden on the scientific staff. Any unused funds would be returned to CIRM.

¹ Under the terms of the Conference Grant Programs, CIRM can only support conferences held in California.