

Program Proposal – CIRM Visiting Faculty Awards

CIRM requests ICOC approval for a program supplementing active CIRM grants to provide opportunities for visiting California faculty to conduct research in CIRM-funded laboratories.

The goal of the CIRM Visiting Faculty Award is to provide stem cell research opportunities for faculty-level scientists from California educational institutions that do not receive major research and infrastructure funding from CIRM. This program will augment existing sabbatical leave programs at California State University campuses and other 4-year educational institutions, and enable eligible faculty to participate in existing CIRM-funded research projects. These opportunities should create lasting collaborations between faculty members at different institutions, facilitate the transfer of stem cell expertise to a greater number of California colleges and universities, particularly institutions with student populations representing the diversity of California's population, and expand the cadre of stem cell scientists working to advance CIRM's mission.

Rather than create a separate RFA or grant program, the CIRM Visiting Faculty Award will operate through supplemental awards to existing CIRM-funded research grants, all of which have been peer reviewed and approved by the ICOC. The funds will enable a sabbatical researcher (Visiting Scientist) to work on an existing CIRM-funded research project for 6-12 months. The supplemental CIRM funds will cover up to 50% of the Visiting Scientist's salary and fringe benefits costs, with the remainder being paid by the Visiting Scientist's home institution. Therefore, CIRM's investment will leverage support from the home institution, and the Visiting Scientist will be able to focus on research without loss of income. The supplemental funds will also provide a research and travel allowance to facilitate maximal participation of the Visiting Scientist in the research project.

Each application for a CIRM Visiting Faculty Award will be submitted by the PI on an active, funded CIRM research grant (Host Scientist) on behalf of a designated Visiting Scientist. These applications will provide information about the Visiting Scientist's eligibility and qualifications, planned research, integration of research activities with the specific aims of the Host Scientist's CIRM grant, commitment of the home institution to the Visiting Scientist's sabbatical release and partial support, and acceptance by the host institution and Host Scientist of the proposed Faculty Research Initiative. No more than one application will be approved for each CIRM grant per year.

CIRM staff will review each application to verify eligibility and issue the supplemental awards to all eligible applicants on a first come-first served basis until available funds are committed. Visiting research activity must commence within 9 months of application approval.

CIRM requests ICOC approval for a Supplemental Visiting Faculty Research Fund of up to \$6.6 million to support up to 30 Visiting Faculty Awards. The awards will be made over a period of up to two years (or until funds are committed), with 3 planned application deadlines per year.