

## Recommendation for Additional Funds for Major Facilities Grant Awards

The CIRM Executive Committee recommends that the ICOC consider adding \$25 to \$35 million to Request for Applications 07-03 (the CIRM Major Facilities Grants). The CIRM Major Facilities Grants are intended to expand the capacity of nonprofit research institutions in California to conduct stem cell research, to accommodate new stem cell scientists, and to provide facilities in which these scientists can work free from federal restrictions.

Currently, the ICOC has approved \$227 million for RFA 07-03 for three different categories of grants: (1) CIRM Institutes (\$25 to \$50 million); (2) CIRM Centers of Excellence (\$10 to \$25 million); and (3) CIRM Special Programs (\$5 to \$10 million). At present, however, RFA 07-03 does not include any funds for the purchase of moveable equipment. In order to achieve the purposes of RFA 07-03 and to ensure that the facilities funded by CIRM become operational as soon as possible, it is critical that grantees have sufficient funding to purchase the moveable equipment necessary to carry out stem cell research.

The CIRM Executive Committee therefore proposes that that the ICOC consider adding \$25 to \$35 million to RFA 07-03 to be used exclusively for the purpose of funding the purchase of moveable equipment within the currently approved award ranges for CIRM Institutes, CIRM Centers of Excellence, and CIRM Special Projects. Under RFA 07-03, all applicants must include in their Part Two application a plan to provide an initial complement of research equipment necessary to make the facility functional. The Facilities Working Group will evaluate this plan as part of its consideration of the Part Two application. If the ICOC were to approve additional funding for moveable equipment and award funds for the purchase of moveable equipment within the specified award ranges, grantees could seek reimbursement for moveable equipment that is specified in their plans up to the amount of funds awarded by the ICOC for such equipment. The ICOC would have the flexibility of approving equipment and building awards for some applicants while allocating solely building funds to other applicants.