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*Steven C. Griffen, M.D.  
Senior Vice President, Research*

To: Maria Bonneville, Executive Director  
Independent Citizens Oversight Committee  
The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine  
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 1650  
Oakland, CA 94612

August 24, 2016

Dear ICOC Board Members,

As a representative organization and advocate of those in the type 1 diabetes (T1D) community, JDRF endorses the cell encapsulation efforts currently underway and in clinical-phase testing at ViaCyte. JDRF has a long history of supporting a wide portfolio of encapsulation research, and ViaCyte has emerged as a leader in this field, now performing the first-ever clinical trial of macroencapsulated embryonic stem cell-derived pancreatic cells as a treatment for diabetes. Currently there are 1.25 million Americans, who have T1D, and we believe the field of beta cell encapsulation generally and ViaCyte's studies specifically are highly promising and yielding very exciting new information and newfound hope for those living with this devastating condition.

As you may be aware, JDRF has supported ViaCyte's VC-01 product development plan for many years, in parallel with CIRM. JDRF scientists and business development team have reviewed the company's research and financial progress, and have been impressed with the strength of the efforts, and integrity of the programs. More specifically, the VC-01-102 clinical trial described in the CLIN2-08839 grant application, which is testing several new improved versions of the Encaptra delivery device, is part of the research program being supported by JDRF. JDRF's commitment to the restoration of beta cell function using encapsulation approaches is because we understand that the management of T1D is a constant challenge for people with the disease and their families. Innovative research which includes an implantable cell replacement therapy could be a life-changing treatment option for individuals with T1D.

JDRF is grateful for CIRM's continued support of research that can impact the type 1 diabetes community, and in the quest to dramatically improve the treatment and prognosis of this tragic and deadly disease.

Sincerely yours,

Steven C. Griffen, M.D.  
JDRF Senior Vice President, Research