

**CIRM Support for Attendance at 2011 World Stem Cell Summit 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, capitalizing on the fact this important conference was being held in California. This year, the annual World Stem Cell Summit will be held October 3-5 in Pasadena, with sponsorship from a number of California institutions as well as support from CIRM. The World Stem Cell Summit is described by its creators as follows:

*The annual World Stem Cell Summit is the flagship international event uniting the stem cell community by bringing together scientists, patients, advocates, business people, investors, educators, ethicists, policy makers, government representatives, and others to network and learn from each other. The 2011 Summit, at the premier Pasadena Convention Center in Los Angeles County, California, will attract more than 2,000 attendees from 30 nations, 60 exhibitors and more than 200 endorsing organizations and media partners.*

The Office of the Chair, based in part on a request from the Office of the President, proposes that the Board authorize CIRM to enter into a contract with the World Stem Cell Summit to administer a scholarship program to support the participation of young California researchers and California representatives of patient advocacy organizations in the World Stem Cell Summit meeting. The cost per participant is estimated to be approximately \$1000 (inclusive of registration, travel and accommodations). We therefore propose to allocate \$125,000 to support up to 50 young California researchers who are actively involved in an active CIRM-funded grant (including Bridges to Stem Cell Research, Research Training Grants, and other research award programs) and up to 75 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 the World Stem Cell Summit 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. Similar to the ISSCR Scholarship program, 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.