13 December 2010

Dear Fellow Board Members,

Under the provisions adopted by our board any candidate for Chair and Vice Chair should provide a letter of candidacy to the Board. In accordance with those provisions I am seeking your support for a full term as your Statutory Vice Chair.

You elected me in March of 2009 to fill out the unexpired term of our former Vice Chair Ed Penhoet. It has been a challenging, inspiring, and fulfilling time. I have worked diligently in never missing an ICOC Governing Board meeting, totaling 20 so far with one remaining.

I have also served as a patient advocate member of the Grants Working Group, attending nine meetings thus far, wherein we have reviewed applications for grant awards for CIRM stem cell research.

I also serve on the Standards Working Group and the Facilities Working Group, and am a member of the Governance, Finance, Science, and Evaluation Subcommittees all of which meet regularly and make recommendations to the full board. I also serve as your Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee. These distinct subcommittees have met 33 times since I have been elected.

I have also fulfilled my duties in shepherding the Senator Elaine Alquist legislation through our state legislature in a bi-partisan fashion with the assistance of our colleague Duane Roth. SB 1064 removed the 50-employee cap on CIRM and created more transparency in the fiscal and performance audits of our agency. I worked closely both with the Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, Senate Majority Leader Dean Florez and Appropriations Chair Christine Kehoe, along with Assembly members Willliam Monning, Nathan Fletcher and Assembly Speaker John Perez.

In addition, I helped lead the efforts to pass Assembly Member Anthony Portantino's legislation to create a cord blood registry for the state.

On the federal level, Duane and I have also worked with Congress, including Congress member Anna Eshoo and the co-authors of her legislation on biosimilars, which became law through the passage of President Obama's health care legislation.

In addition I have worked closely with our State Treasurer Bill Lockyer and our State Controller John Chiang to insure that the vision and mandate from the voters of California would be implemented in a fiscally responsible manner. I applaud them both for their continual support of our agency and their commitment to the taxpayers and patients of our great State.

In conclusion, there are many challenges ahead as we move forward toward human clinical trails. If elected, I hope to continue to work with Bob Klein as Chair to provide consistent leadership to fulfill the promises made to Californians in 2004.

I look forward to answering any questions at our Board meeting this coming Wednesday. My thanks for your valued friendship and support.

Sincerely,

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