

To: Members of the ICOC of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine

From: Bernard Siegel, Executive Director, Genetics Policy Institute

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing this message to personally endorse Dr. Frank Litvack for the position of Chair of CIRM. Though I am not a resident of California, CIRM's global impact on the future of medicine is so great, I thought it was important to provide my views.

I am the founder and executive director of the Genetics Policy Institute, a 501(c)(3) policy and education organization. GPI is dedicated to ensuring that the fundamental research findings of stem cell scientists are translated into clinical and commercial uses that will improve the well being of the global population.

GPI is the producer of the annual World Stem Cell Summit, a conference that I founded, which will take place in October 2011 in Pasadena. I also founded and serve as editor-in-chief of the *World Stem Cell Report* and serve as spokesperson of the Stem Cell Action Coalition, an advocacy group comprising more than 70 nonprofit organizations supporting stem cell research.

In addition, I serve on numerous boards and committees relating to the advancement of stem cells including the Coalition for Advancement of Medical Research (CAMR), Americans for Cures Foundation, Alliance for Regenerative

Medicine and others.

However, first and foremost, I am a cancer survivor and passionate stem cell advocate. I believe the Chair position must be filled with a person who is, at his or her core, an advocate who will always work for the patients and their loved ones who are counting on CIRM to deliver treatments through regenerative medicine.

Having met personally with Frank, I came away with the impression that he has a great depth of knowledge on matters pertaining to science, translational medicine and business. I was also deeply impressed with his insightful questions. He is a good listener.

Given his levels of professional achievement, it is no surprise that Frank has business acumen and knowledge of medicine in abundance. But I truly believe his sterling quality is that of empathy for others.

I think Frank will keep the patients' voices in mind in his role as CIRM Chair. It is important that the Chair understands business and biomedicine. Frank is hugely qualified on those fronts. But the Chair also needs heart and a special temperament to work well with others. Frank has all of those qualities.

In the Chair's role, Frank can "hit the ground running" and in these challenging economic times, that is very important.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide you with any additional information.

Respectfully,

Bernard Siegel, J.D.
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