

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0011
(916) 319-2011
FAX (916) 319-2111
DISTRICT OFFICE
ONE HARBOR CENTER, SUITE 270
SUISUN CITY, CA 94585
(707) 438-7359
FAX (707) 438-7344



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CHAIR, CALIFORNIA LEGISLATIVE BLACK
CAUCUS

May 21, 2024

Dear Members of the CIRM Application Review Subcommittee:

I am writing in support of Dr. David Tran's CIRM grant proposal (TRAN1-16065), Title: A Novel Gene Therapy to Target Glioblastoma via Custom-Engineered Adenovirus-Associated Viral Vectors.

Glioblastoma is one of the most aggressive, treatment-resistant, and complex cancers. In 2023 alone, more than 14,000 Americans are expected to receive a Glioblastoma diagnosis, accounting for 50.1% of primary malignant brain tumors. Each year, more than 10,000 Americans and 1,000 Californians are expected to lose their lives to this disease. However, despite first being identified in the scientific literature over a century ago, there have only been four drugs and one device ever approved by the FDA specifically for the treatment of glioblastoma.

In addition to being life-threatening, Glioblastoma and its treatments inflict long-lasting damage on the brain that impacts the individual's sense of sense and independence, as they lose their ability to regulate mood, work, and drive. It is also one of the more expensive cancers to treat, often leaving patients and families with major financial hardship and physical disability. While brain cancer treatment and research remains one of the highest unmet medical needs, funding from traditional sources has been sparse given the risks involved. This is particularly true for early-stage research since most funders prefer to wait with funding until projects are beyond the early stages, despite the compelling reasons to invest both public and private dollars.

As a Member of the California legislature, focused on the health and well-being of our State's citizens, I support Dr. Tran's well-designed and thoughtful proposal that will yield incredibly compelling data in the fight to end Glioblastoma. Dr. Tran has taken a novel, innovative, and rigorous approach to this research that should be supported. I give my full support to Dr. Tran's CIRM application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Wilson", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

LORI WILSON
Assemblymember, 11th District