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16 April 2024

Re: Letter of Support for CIRM Grant # TRAN1-16065 (Funding Cycle: 24.1)

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Dear Ms. Mandac and Mr. Tocher:

I am writing this letter in support of the above CRIM Translational Grant Program Proposal titled "A Novel Gene Therapy to Target Glioblastoma via Custom-Engineered Adenovirus-Associated Viral Vectors".

Brain Cancer is one of the most devastating cancers that a person and their loved ones can experience. It is also a formidable and relentless "enemy", and as a result, very little progress has been made for decades.

While brain cancer remains one of the highest unmet medical needs, research funding from traditional sources such as the biotechnology industry and venture capital has been sparse given the risks involved. This is particularly true for early-stage research since such traditional sources prefer to wait with funding until projects are beyond the early stages.

As a result, an early-stage funding gap exists, even for projects as desirable and promising as Dr. Tran's. I am a Venture Partner at OrbiMed Advisors, one of the leading healthcare funds, and the reality of this gap has often been frustrating to me. As a result, I have a high regard for the CIRM Grant program because it helps to bridge this gap and allows promising research to evolve to a point that it can be further developed and brought to patients by more traditional funding sources.

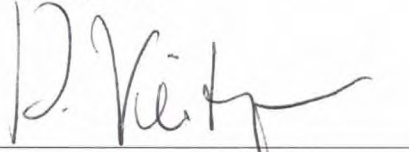
I still remember when I saw many years ago during medical school for the first time an X-ray image of a brain cancer patient. I wished that I would never have to deal with this disease. My wish was not granted. My daughter Julia was diagnosed with brain cancer six years ago during college. Ever since fighting for her life and beating brain cancer in general has become a mission for me.

During the past six years, I have met and worked with many/most of the brain cancer experts in this country trying to move the field forward. Dr. Tran stands out as a physician-scientist who has never been willing to accept the dismal status quo but is focused on breaking new ground to finally make progress. His research has always been remarkable, and it is no surprise to me that the CIRM score of his proposal came back as “exceptional”.

This is one of the situations where a CIRM grant ultimately could make a true difference in the lives of people and their families. Its support would mean a lot.

Please don't hesitate to contact me.

My very best

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Veitinger', written over a horizontal line.

Klaus Veitinger, MD PhD