

DATE: 16-April-2024

TO: CIRM Application Review Subcommittee

FROM: Scott L. Rakestraw, PhD



Founder – [Mission GBM](#)

President & Managing Director, The Branta Group LLC

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for CIRM Grant #TRAN1-16065

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Dear Members of the Application Review Subcommittee:

As a leading investor in brain cancer research, Founder of one of the largest worldwide patient communities ([Mission GBM](#)) and caregiver to my wife who has glioblastoma multiforme (GBM), I am writing to express the strongest support possible for fully funding Dr. David Tran's CIRM grant proposal (TRAN1-16065).

I first met Dr. Tran 2.5 years ago when my wife was diagnosed with GBM. Her tumor profile was very unfavorable, and she was only expected to live 6 months. Dr. Tran and I got to work designing a novel protocol to treat my wife, and to build [Team Julie](#), a global network of leading brain cancer clinicians and scientists (including a Nobel Laureate) to identify and promote the best evidence-based approaches. In a field which has been historically characterized by almost no innovation, Dr. Tran's work stands out for fundamentally altering and improving the clinical trajectory for many high grade glioma and GBM patients. His work has not only allowed my wife to still be alive and thriving 2.5 years later (after achieving a Complete Response), but we have now scaled his innovations to more than 50 GBM patients in the Mission GBM cohort of >250 worldwide patients. The Bottom Line is that Dr. Tran is one of very few physician/scientists in the field of Neuro-Oncology to ever produce [Results That Matter](#).

As a 30+ year Biotech founder, executive, investor and Board member, I can also assure you that Dr. Tran's proposal is well-designed, and is very capable of yielding a data set which will attract the significant amounts of institutional capital necessary to conduct translational research and clinical development towards the ultimate goal of registering a new therapy for GBM. Innovation and scientific rigor of the type displayed by Dr. Tran is very rare in Neuro-Oncology, and when it is encountered, it should be supported to the fullest extent.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to express our support for Dr. Tran's CIRM application.