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Dear CIRM ARS Board,

We are writing this letter to encourage the ARS to fund DISC4-16337 in this current meeting. Briefly, we believe we have been subjected to an ambiguous decision process. In the GWG, 7 votes were for Tier 1 funding and 7 were for Tier 2 funding, this is a **tie**, and there is no majority as alluded to on slide 14 of the presentation.

In baseball, a tie goes to the runner. In football, a tie goes to the receiver. We feel the automatic classification to Tier 2 of this application is arbitrary. Further, the categorization of our proposal in same priority classification as the remaining Tier 2 applications, the closest of which has 2 votes for Tier 1 and 13 votes for Tier 2, lacks any rationale. We do not know why only 14 of the 15 GWG members voted on our application (presumably a conflict of interest), but we should not be punished for the lack of a decisive vote.

Having listened to recent CIRM board discussions with great attention, we recognize the ARS's strong desire to respect process and the recommendations of the CIRM staff. We agree that every application should be treated fairly, consistently, and according to established process. However, the situation in which our application finds itself is very ambiguous and actually supports a process for moving the project into the funded category.

In terms of content, our application scored very highly in every category, and the minority report highlights "the innovative hypothesis and strength of the applicant team drove their recommendation" and "were enthusiastic about the prospect that "altered metabolism - via dietary interventions - can impact development in neuropsychiatric diseases" as it represents a potential non-invasive treatment.

We appreciate the constructive and fully addressable criticisms and would be happy to work with the program officers to address these concerns. We are excited to get started on this important collaborative work since we think it will have a high impact on Californians with developmental and neuropsychiatric disorders. Thank you for your consideration.

Our team will be present at the meeting, and we are happy to answer any follow up questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aparna Bhaduri".

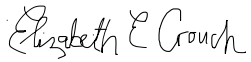
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