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To CIRM Board members:

We wanted to thank the Board members for voicing their strong commitment to the work and the patients and communities in these times. As a researcher and clinician, knowing that leadership and advocates at CIRM are keeping to goals of accessible discovery is encouraging and heartening.

We also want to thank the Board for their feedback and enthusiasm on our grant. We are representing **grant DISC4-16345**. We are a multi-disciplinary team combining novel human in vitro models, cutting-edge gene editing technologies, and functional readouts to better understand disease mechanisms that underlie neurodevelopmental conditions. As was recommended by our initial reviewers, we now focus on 22q syndrome, the most common neurological microdeletion syndrome with severe neuropsychiatric symptoms. This is also a condition that currently has no treatment and limited management for their seizures and behavioral and mental health challenges. As a neurologist, Dr. Paredes works closely with our psychiatry colleagues, and we endeavor to offer more for these patients. Therefore, our final aim is a patient-driven one, where our team will meet with patients and patient advocates to continue to incorporate their feedback and share our advancements for quicker return to the families. This is in keeping with our advocacy for rare disease while keeping the lens of accessibility and outreach embedded in our goals.

We thank you again and look forward to working with all the CIRM community to advance human health.

Sincerely,

Mercedes Paredes, M.D., PhD.
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