

## **CIRM Update (Part III [Oct. 16, 2009])**

In 2004, proponents of Proposition 71, the “California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative,” promised that taxpayer money—\$3 billion dollars’ worth—would be spent to conduct research and to construct research facilities that would produce cures for disease. It is noteworthy that to date no cures or therapies have resulted from embryonic stem cell research.

According to the text of Proposition 71, the governing board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine does not have the authority to appropriate funds for grants or loans in any category other than research and facilities. Nowhere is funding for education or raising public support authorized.

This email is the third in this series the purpose of which is to make you aware of the available information on how CIRM is spending your taxpayer dollars to educate you and your children about, among other things, the ethical propriety of embryonic stem cell research.<sup>1</sup>

### **The International Society for Stem Cell Research**

**Cost: \$100,000**

The International Society for Stem Cell Research “is the worlds only international, multidisciplinary society focused on stem cell science.” Its members represent five continents.<sup>2</sup> According to its mission statement, ISSCR was established “to promote and foster the exchange and dissemination of information and ideas relating to stem cells, to encourage the general field of research involving stem cells and to promote professional and public education in all areas of stem cell research and application.”<sup>3</sup>

From October 2008 through June 2009 CIRM had a \$100,000 contract with ISSCR, the purpose of which was stated as “Public communication and education.”<sup>4</sup> (This amount does not include \$9,840 that was allocated for registration and membership fees). Beyond the purpose statement, it is not clear what specifically this contract involved. But there is no attempt to claim that it had anything to do with funding research or funding facilities construction. Furthermore, this “public communication and education” quite possibly occurred in locations outside of California, since the ISSCR is an international organization.

### **Political Lobbying for “Public Education”**

**Cost: at least \$104,200**

From January 2008 through December 2009, CIRM has two consecutive contracts with Nielsen, Merksamer LLP, a prominent California law and lobbying firm. The contracts are for \$49,200 and \$55,000, respectively. The purpose of the contracts as stated is “Public Education” without further explanation.<sup>5</sup> But based on the fact that Nielsen Merksamer is a legal and political lobbying firm, “public education” quite possible includes political lobbying. Besides the two listed contracts, it appears that Nielson Merksamer has been on the CIRM payroll since its inception. Capitol Weekly said Merksamer is “is one of the states most influential political-legal players. His 16-lawyer firm is involved in a myriad of political issues and dispenses legal advice and political strategy to a national and international big-business clientele.”<sup>6</sup> No wonder CIRM hires this firm to keep its interests squarely within the sights of the powers that be in Sacramento—after all, the taxpayers fit the bill.

**Stay Tuned . . .**

The next email update on this topic will detail education occurring through CIRM grant funding. In keeping with its mission, LLDF is committed to exposing CIRM for its use of public money when that use includes “educating and informing” the public in order to promulgate the destruction of innocent human life through embryonic stem cell research. On the one hand, any funds spent on CIRM’s education campaign deflect the use of these funds from killing embryos. On the other, taxpayer funds are being wasted so that the public is “educated,” thereby ensuring ongoing funding for CIRM’s clone and kill agenda for years to come.

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise indicated, information has been taken from the Governance Subcommittees July 21, 2009 Meeting Agenda Item Summary Chart:

<http://www.cirm.ca.gov/sites/default/files/%23%204%20CHART%20for%207.21.09%20Gov%20Sub.072109%20Governance%20Contracts%20Summary%20.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> ISSCR media information; <http://www.isscr.org/media/index.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> ISSCR mission statement: <http://www.isscr.org/mission/index.htm>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/sites/default/files/%23%204%20CHART%20for%207.21.09%20Gov%20Sub.072109%20Governance%20Contracts%20Summary%20.pdf> (at page 3 of the report).

<sup>5</sup> (<http://www.cirm.ca.gov/sites/default/files/%23%204%20CHART%20for%207.21.09%20Gov%20Sub.072109%20Governance%20Contracts%20Summary%20.pdf> at page 4 of the report.)

<sup>6</sup> See <http://californiastemcellreport.blogspot.com/2009/04/stem-cells-and-three-california> movers.html, April 16, 2009.

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