

Here is some background: **Irving Lerner "Irv" Weissman** is a Professor of Pathology and Developmental Biology at [Stanford University](#)^[2] where he is the Director of the Stanford Institute of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine along with Michael Longaker.

The following is correspondence involving Linda Clever, Irving Weissman, and Bob Klein concerning Prop 14.

On Oct 1, 2020, at 2:42 PM, Irving L. Weissman M.D. <irv@stanford.edu> wrote:

Hi Linda,

California is now the second largest stem cell biology and medicine research and clinical translation budget and accomplishments in the world. In 2001, George W Bush announced no more new funding of embryonic stem cell research, or reprogramming adult tissue cells to these type of stem cells. The federal government last year added a ban on anyone using fetal remains from elective or medical abortions in research. Both in 2004 and now this means that it's a states' rights issue to do for us what our federal government will not do.

All of our stem cells were initially isolated with the use of fetal tissues. The women having the abortion were not contacted until they had signed a form that they were irrevocably committed to have the procedure, and only at the end of the procedure were they asked if the fetal remains could be donated to biomedical research rather than discarded. No one involved in the abortion, the obtainment and delivery of the tissues, or the receipt of the tissues could do it for profit.

All tissue stem cells have to regenerate their own tissue and organ systems, all of which are complex mixtures of many cell types; only fetal organs are available to test candidates. We isolated hematopoietic stem cells [HSC] and brain stem cells [CNS SC] and bone and cartilage stem cells [SSC] and skeletal muscle stem cells and every cancer stem cell with these systems and with CIRM support. Given that the time from discovery to approved therapy is a minimum of 15 years and that CIRM started funding in late 2007, the appropriate question to ask is not 'what diseases have you already cured', but, what clinical trials are now ongoing with leads funded by CIRM. The answer is many, many, way more than stem cell related trials coming out of NIH research. It includes all of the anti-CD47 work that has led to the therapies which so far are the only treatments for myelodysplastic syndrome or AML of the elderly, with CD47 targets for all other cancers; for fibrotic disorders; for atherosclerosis; and for nearly all infections wherein the pathogen hides inside cells.

As I related in our Sequoias seminar, we succeeded in a trial with human blood forming stem cells in a number of trials, from the early ones to rescue women with metastatic breast cancer following 'lethal' combination chemotherapy with cancer free stem cells rather than cancer contaminated mobilized blood to our current trials with maternal blood forming stem cell rescue of children with severe combined immunodeficiency following antibody removal of their own disease stem cells; no radiation or chemo.

CIRM supported many of these and other studies across the state. By design, when equity and royalties develop, the money goes back to the universities with the patented inventions or clinical trials SOPs, and the university has to share that with the state. When Gilead bought my company Forty Seven this spring for \$4.95B, Stanford got lots of money [several hundred million] and is working out now how to send part of it back to the state via this agreement. Gilead is a California company with Californians as employees. As they prosper, the taxes they pay will be, in part, due to Prop 71. At Stanford alone over \$370M has been granted and all of that must be spent in California first unless reagents, tests, etc are not

available in California. Our building cost \$200M, and we raised \$150M in a 3:1 match for the CIRM grant award of \$43.8M. The contractors who built the institute had to hire California workers and use California concrete, lumber, etc. I was able to recruit 25 new faculty, stem cell experts, from other states to Stanford. On average those labs bring in \$2-3M in grants each year from non-CIRM sources, so we moved over \$50M/year to Stanford from other states. Not to mention the massive number of biomedical people we trained for the future, and *most importantly*, the cures that are already coming.

Here is a document from Bob Klein concerning the issue, which includes where people of means could donate for ads that need to go out now:

Irv,

We are at a critical tipping point in determining whether we will succeed in passing the \$5.5 billion of stem cell research and clinical trial funding (Prop 14) that is vital to continuing the rapid advance of research and stem cell therapy development in California. Beyond a critical value of this 10 years of California funding, through a series authorization for General Obligation Bond funding, stem cell therapies derived from human embryonic cells, have only received government funding from California (not the NIH). Furthermore, the September 4th US Senators letter to President Trump declares the intent of US Senate religious conservatives, to even ban embryonic stem cell research through the NIH.

Additionally, the research shows that between 2006-2020, all of California's major academic and research institutions research and clinical trial National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding was, on average, nearly matched by the California stem cell funding from Prop 71 (CIRM) (see 3 funding summaries attached). Despite a phenomenal statewide coalition, the Governor's endorsement, the State Democratic Party's endorsement, the University of California System's endorsement, and more than 90 patient advocate organizations (attached) and professional societies endorsements, **we could lose the Proposition 14 ballot vote on November 3rd, because of the lack of funding to meet our advertising commitments.**

We appreciate, again, the major contribution of your family; but, we are facing critical advertising program payments and any contributions from your friends and associates would make a critical difference, in reaching a successful advertising threshold, in the next 8-10 days. Proposition 14's government funding represents a major share, of the bedrock core for all major funding for stem cell research and clinical trials. **Without this funding, the 12 California Stem Cell Institutes, Centers of Excellence, and Specialty Research Centers, the 7 Alpha Clinics, and the efforts of the more than 702 dedicated scientists and physicians (and their research staffs) who are grant and loan recipients, in CIRM's funding programs, will be crippled and/or permanently lost in this battle to reduce human suffering and improve the human condition.**

Without Proposition 14's new funding, the stem cell research and clinical trial funding, by government sources, for all major California research institutions, would be cut by 50%; with Proposition 14 funding, government funding for stem cell research and clinical trials would increase by 50%, with awards distributed through competitive, expert review approvals. This battle can be won, despite the COVID 19 recession, the opposition's disinformation, and the efforts of extreme religious conservatives' efforts to suppress medical science.

Thank you for your consideration. **Remember, California is number 2 in the world, when ranked as a nation in biomedical research capacity, behind only the U.S.. At this moment, California is the world's leader in stem cell research and clinical trials, at least until November 3rd, 2020.**

Can we arrange a short Zoom call in the immediate future, with any of your friends? To meet our advertising buy schedule, we need to raise \$10 million over the next 8-10 days. Thanks again.

Bob Klein

Chairman, YES on 14: Californians for Stem Cell Research, Treatments and Cures Committee

O: (650) 833-0100 | C: (650) 387-6789 | bobklein@klein-financial.com

The information contained in this message (and attachments) is confidential and may be legally privileged. The message is intended solely for the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, or reproduction is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful. If you are not the intended recipient please contact the sender by return e-mail and destroy all copies of the original message and attachments.

Ad paid for by YES on 14: Californians for Stem Cell Research, Treatments and Cures Committee major funding from

Robert N. Klein II and Affiliated Entity Klein Financial Corporation

Dagmar Dolby

JDRF International

Funding details at www.fppc.ca.gov