



Regulatory Amendments

In August 2008, CIRM's governing board approved two interim regulations. These regulations do the following:

1. Authorize a procedure for grandfathering human stem cell lines derived before the effective date of the CIRM regulations (see http://www.cirm.ca.gov/meetings/pdf/2008/081208_item_9.pdf and <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/reg/pdf/Reg100081.pdf>).
2. Authorize the use of embryos containing gametes for which the donor(s) were paid gametes. (see http://www.cirm.ca.gov/meetings/pdf/2008/081208_item_9b.pdf).

The text of the amendments may be found at: <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/reg/default.asp>

International Collaborations

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), the state's stem cell agency, and the government of the Australian state of Victoria announced a collaboration in July see: <http://www.cirm.ca.gov/press/pdf/2008/06-18-08.pdf>

Canada and California developed an to gain a better understanding of the role cancer stem cells play in the development of the disease. see: http://www.cirm.ca.gov/press/pdf/2008/06-18-08_b.pdf

Facility Grants

The governing board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) voted approved \$271 million to 12 institutions to build stem cell research facilities throughout California. The institutions committed an additional \$560 million from charitable donations and their internal reserves, bringing the total statewide investment in new research space to \$831 million.

Stem Cell Science New Directions

CIRM sponsored a workshop titled *Stem Cells and Predictive Toxicology*. The workshop was designed to bring together experts from the fields of the environmental health sciences, stem cell biology and drug development to orient the participants to trends in each field and identify areas of research overlap. A workshop report will be published shortly.