

What People Are Saying
About Proposition 14: Californians for Stem Cell Research, Treatments and Cures

“The 2004 stem cell initiative supported breakthrough diabetes research, now in human clinical trials, which shows encapsulated cells can produce insulin in people with type 1 diabetes. Passing the California Stem Cell Research, Treatments and Cures Initiative of 2020 will help further advance promising research, develop new treatment opportunities and provide hope for cures for people with diabetes and other chronic diseases.”

Aaron J. Kowalski, Ph.D., President and CEO
JDRF International

“We’ve been a proud supporter of this initiative from its inception. We were honored to participate in the campaign’s mail-in signature gathering effort and activate the Parkinson’s community in support of such a critical initiative that provides hope to those living with Parkinson’s and other illnesses without a cure.”

Ted Thompson, JD, Senior VP of Public Policy
Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research

“The 2004 stem cell initiative has led to remarkable medical discoveries and has had an incredible effect on paralysis research and treatment development. Californians must continue what we started by passing the 2020 initiative. By passing the 2020 initiative, California can help accelerate the development of more treatments and cures for chronic diseases and conditions that touch nearly all California families – from cancer and heart disease to spinal cord injuries and neurological disorders.”

Peter T. Wilderotter, President and CEO
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation

“California’s stem cell program has made remarkable progress in accelerating scientific discovery and developing the potential for treatments and cures so desperately needed for those suffering from chronic diseases and conditions. For those with ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases, we must continue the effort that began in 2004 and ensure the passage of the 2020 initiative.”

Fred Fisher, President and CEO
The ALS Association Golden West Chapter

“We could be on the brink of medical discoveries that could save the lives of patients impacted by COVID-19 and other diseases, and this research simply would not be possible without the initial investment Californians made in the state’s stem cell program in 2004. Now, it is absolutely critical that this investment is renewed, allowing researchers like myself to continue to discover treatments and cures that can improve or save the lives of patients today and for generations to come.”

Dr. John Zaia, Director and Program Director
Center for Gene Therapy, City of Hope
Alpha Stem Cell Clinic, City of Hope

“As a member of the medical community on the frontlines, watching how currently incurable diseases, conditions and injuries impact families every day, I know how critically important it is to continue to conduct research that can provide real hope to the millions of Californians who need it most. The California Stem Cell Research, Treatments and Cures Initiative of 2020 could lead to a lifesaving treatment for you or someone you love.”

Dr. Joseph Wu, Director
Stanford Cardiovascular Institute

“California’s stem cell research institute provided critical early funding that allowed us to develop two highly effective cancer treatments that received FDA approval in 2018 and 2019.”

**Catriona Jamieson, M.D., Ph.D., Deputy Director and Director
Moore’s Cancer Center at University of California, San Diego
Sanford Stem Cell Clinical Center**

“California has become the global leader in stem cell biology and regenerative medicine research, leading to extraordinary scientific discoveries and innovations that are now being translated into an increasing number of promising clinical trials that offer hope to individuals with serious and in some cases catastrophic diseases.”

**Phillip A. Pizzo, M.D., Former Dean and Professor
Stanford Medical School (2001-2012)**

“From the very start of the California stem cell program, the research it has supported has adhered to stringent ethical standards. All participating institutions have detailed and careful oversight programs to make sure that these clinical studies have the best chance of success and are as safe as possible.”

**Sidney Golub, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus and Director
University of California, Irvine Stem Cell Research Center (2013-2017)**

“Stem cell therapy represents our best opportunity to treat diseases that currently are untreatable, such as neurodegenerative diseases. The 2020 initiative will enable California to continue to lead the world in developing stem cell therapy.”

**David A. Brenner, M.D., Vice Chancellor
Health Sciences at University of California, San Diego**

“The devastating impacts of cancer are felt by everyone in our society – accounting for nearly 25% of deaths in California and is the second-leading cause of death in the state. We must seize all opportunities to support advancements in medicine that could potentially save the lives of Californians battling cancer and other diseases, and we have that opportunity before us with this patient centric initiative.”

**Antoni Ribas, M.D., Ph.D., President
American Association for Cancer Research**

“The current global health crisis serves as a constant reminder that we cannot take the health and well-being of our friends and family for granted, which is why investing in the health of our society is one of the most important investments we can make today. Investing in the California Stem Cell Research, Treatments, and Cures Initiative of 2020 will help us achieve our goal of finding a cure for Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s and other chronic diseases and conditions.”

**Lauren Miller Rogen, Co-Founder
Hilarity for Charity (HFC)**

“An estimated 55% of adults in California are living with some form of diabetes – including Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes, and prediabetes. While promising treatments for management and complications related to these chronic conditions are in sight, critical scientific progress could be lost if we do not continue to advance California’s stem cell research program – a venture that has already given hope to many Californians living with diabetes and has the potential to improve the lives of many more.”

**Thom Scher, CEO
Beyond Type 1**

“Promising treatments and cures are awaiting the needed resources and funding to continue critical research, but these potential lifesaving discoveries cannot advance without Californians’ support for the 2020 stem cell initiative – an initiative that could change the lives of those suffering from epilepsy and other chronic neurological disorders.”

**Beth Lewin Dean, CEO
CURE - Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy**

“Almost every Californian has seen a loved one experience the devastating impacts of mental illness, and 1 in 6 Californians are currently affected with a mental illness. The California Stem Cell Research, Treatments, and Cures Initiative of 2020 will allow critical research to continue that has the potential to advance treatments and cures for these diseases, conditions and injuries that impact the everyday lives of far too many Californians.”

**Marion J. Riggs, Ph.D., Founder
Loving Mind Institute**

“We became advocates for Mental Health after our son was diagnosed with Schizophrenia, and as parents it was devastating to witness his struggle without any way to cure it. We formed OneMind to help accelerate treatments and cures for mental health and brain disorders, which are some of the most difficult chronic diseases to understand and effectively treat. We won’t be able to achieve our Vision of Healthy Brains for All without more incredible medical discoveries like those that were made possible by California’s voters when they passed the first stem cell research initiative in 2004. We wholeheartedly support the passage of the California Stem Cell Research, Treatments, and Cures Initiative of 2020 because it will continue to advance research of great potential towards new therapies and cures for the more than 1 in 6 California adults, and millions of California’s children suffering from mental health and brain disorders.”

**Garen and Shari Staglin, Co-Founders
OneMind**

“California’s stem cell research program has led to breakthrough medical discoveries, some of which have saved the lives of children and adults diagnosed with primary immunodeficiencies. The 2020 initiative will support the continuation of this important work to advance new and better treatments that can be translated across all types of chronic diseases.”

**John G. Boyle, CEO and President
Immune Deficiency Foundation**

“Since I was diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer in 2006, there has been a tremendous amount of advancement in research and discovery that has allowed me to be here today, sharing my story, in large part due to the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine supporting the science that saved my life. Without California’s investment in advancing stem cell research and cures, I would not have the same energized, healthy life that I have been able to once again experience.”

**Sandra Dillion
Myelofibrosis and Cancer Patient Advocate and Clinical Trial Participant**

“Medical discoveries that are currently in the transitional pipeline on their way to clinical trials won’t be able to progress without our continued support. If we do not pass the 2020 stem cell initiative, lifesaving and life-changing treatments could be delayed for decades – and many patients with chronic conditions cannot wait that long.”

**Dr. Charles Liu, Professor
Keck School of Medicine of University of Southern California**

“After being diagnosed with a genetic eye disorder that would likely cause me to go completely blind before I was able to watch my children grow up, research funded by California’s stem cell institute gave me hope. I am now beginning to regain my eyesight, and I am able to make out my children’s faces. Today, I ‘see’ a future that would not have been possible for me or others with similar diseases if it were not for California’s investment in stem cell research.”

Rosie Barrero
Retinitis Pigmentosa Patient and 2015 Clinical Trial Participant

“For me, Parkinson’s disease is a family legacy – affecting my grandmother and uncle, contributing to the passing of my mother who suffered from Lewy Body Dementia, and reaching me with a diagnosis in 2011. I’ve seen and experienced firsthand the devastating impacts of this disease, and I work every day to increase education and raise support because I know if we continue to invest in stem cell research here in California we can offer a quality of life for others also suffering from the same disease.”

David Higgins Ph.D.
Parkinson’s Patient Advocate

“I’ve experienced first-hand how Huntington’s disease can effect a person and a family. With new medical discoveries being tested and uncovered every day, there’s hope that a treatment may soon be discovered to help those living with this diseases and other chronic illnesses. We cannot give up on this critical investment in stem cell research—we must keep fighting and moving forward for those who need it the most and still have a chance at life.”

Frances Saldana
Huntington’s Disease Patient Advocate

“I find that, although I’m living with MS, I still have abilities that allow me to serve people like me who are affected. Bringing awareness to others of what it means to live with MS is very important, as is doing what we can to find a cause and a cure. Awareness through advocacy and funding critical research brings us closer to a cure.”

James Stewart
Multiple Sclerosis Patient Advocate
District Activist Leader, National Multiple Sclerosis Society

“The scientific and medical progress made possible by the 2004 stem cell initiative is leading to treatments and cures that are altering the lives of those living with chronic illnesses for the better. We are dedicated and active patient advocates for our grandson, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes shortly after his first birthday, and the research and therapies being driven from this initiative are providing our family with greater hope that he will one day live a life free of this terrible disease. This important work must continue, so that patients like my grandson can live happier, healthier, and fuller lives.”

Gary and Pam Emsiek
Patient Advocates for a Grandson with Type 1 Diabetes

“Investing in the future health of our families and loved ones is one of the most important investments we can make today – chronic disease is the leading driver of the nation’s annual health care spending, costing Americans an estimated \$3.15 trillion annually and causing preventable death and disability. The 2020 Stem Cell Initiative will help in the fight against chronic disease.”

Kenneth Thorpe, Chairman
Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease

“On the eve of my high school graduation, an accident paralyzed me from the chest down, completely changing the rest of my life. But, because of a stem cell-based clinical trial I participated in, along with endless support and intense physical rehabilitation, I was able to regain enough movement in my arms and hands to drive a car, go on to study biomedical engineering at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and reclaim the ability to live an independent life. I strongly believe others like me should be afforded this same opportunity, and it’s our responsibility to give them that chance.”

Jake Javier

**California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo Biomedical Engineering Undergraduate
Spinal Cord Injury Patient Advocate and 2016 Stem Cell-Based Clinical Trial Participant**

“Having survived cancer, receiving two liver transplants as a result of Viral Hepatitis, and living with Chronic Kidney Disease and diabetes, I know how impactful and all-consuming chronic diseases and disorders can be on a person’s life. However, I have hope that someday soon we will see promising treatments and cures for the many diseases that people around the world are living with today through continued investments in stem cell research – we cannot lose the momentum now.”

William M. Remak

**Chairman and President of the Board, California Hepatitis C Task Force
Chair, International Association of Hepatitis Task Forces**

“I’ve had the great privilege of leading numerous clinical trials to advance new treatments to help those suffering from previously untreatable chronic diseases, from SCID, or ‘bubble baby’ disease, to Sickle Cell Disease. This work, the advancements we have made and the lives we have saved would not have been possible without California’s 2004 investment in stem cell research, and we must continue this work through this year’s initiative because we have new stem cell therapies for other diseases in the pipeline to bring to patients.”

**Dr. Donald Kohn, Pediatrician, Distinguished Professor and Scientist
University of California, Los Angeles Broad Stem Cell Research Center**

“Faced with the current COVID-19 crisis, we are reminded every day that we cannot take our health or the health of our loved ones for granted – we must advance the 2020 stem cell initiative for the millions of Californians and their families who are counting on us to continue advancing new lifesaving treatments and cures.”

**David Schaffer, Ph.D., Director and Professor
Berkeley Stem Cell Center
University of California, Berkeley**

“Doctors, medical professionals, and others in the scientific community are working around the clock to uncover life-changing treatments and cures for various chronic diseases and disorders – but these treatments will remain out of reach if patients can’t access or afford them. This initiative helps ensure that more Californians will have greater and more affordable access to these treatments by providing support for disadvantaged patients, giving those previously out of reach a chance to benefit from these discoveries.”

**Prue Talbot, Ph.D., Professor
University of California, Riverside**

"Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., proudly endorses the California Stem Cell Research, Treatments and Cures Initiative (CIRM) of 2020 to accelerate development of treatments and cures for life-threatening diseases and conditions. Hadassah members in California were staunch advocates for the creation of CIRM, and our members are proud to support the movement to ensure essential funding for years to come. Internationally recognized for decades of leadership in stem cell research, Hadassah Medical Organization (HMO) is in the vanguard of providing life-saving state-of-the-art treatments and immunotherapies that marshal the body's own resources to fight disease. The stunning result of HMO clinical trials for potential treatments of ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases have riveted the worldwide medical community."

Michelle Conwisar, Hadassah Southern California President
Stacey Dorenfeld, Hadassah National State Advocacy Co-Chair & Hadassah Southern California
Advocacy Chair

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