



California Initiative to Advance  
**Precision Medicine**

## California Precision Medicine Advisory Council

### Meeting Summary, March 25, 2024

1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 (Virtual)

#### Opening Remarks from the Chair and Vice Chair

Clara Lajonchere, PhD, Chair

- Significant milestones for the CIAPM program, from intentionally engaging philanthropic leaders to injecting equity in expert selection and evaluation committee processes with compensation for the first time.
- Federal attention continues to grow, from NIH institutes to NASEM and industry groups with a sprinkle of international inquiry, and an opportunity to support a UN Commission.
- The pace and volume of CIAPM's portfolio continues to promote cross-sector collaboration, within and well beyond California borders. Council members should attempt to loop staff into opportunities for deeper connection, (ex. Personalized Medicine Coalition connection via Advisor Sakul).
- As will be summarized by Richard Figueroa, the situation with the State budget this year means no new financial investment, but that's not holding back the CIAPM staff from an ever-more expansive approach to its mission, to demonstrate the promise and potential of precision medicine.

Keith Yamamoto, PhD, Vice Chair

- The CA voters and administration have committed to the challenge of engaging the state in scientific work, and the two agencies that carry that effort are mainly CIAPM and CIRM, the regenerative medicine stem cell agency.
- At the federal level:
  - For nearly a decade, the NIH essentially received flat funding, followed by seven consecutive years of robust budget increases from 2-3 billion per year.
  - The FY23 budget was 47.5 billion dollars, and the FY24 budget has just been signed by the President and the NIH absorbed a cut of about 0.8% in this budget for FY24. The President's FY25 budget just was released, and it is projected for an increase of about 2% in the analytics budget over the FY23 budget (amounts to around an \$900 million increase, and around a \$500 million budget increase over FY24).
  - With this funding comes new opportunities and challenges in putting together programs that can move CIAPM efforts forward.

- The NSF also carries out substantial biological research, especially in the realm of biological engineering. While they anticipated a large budget increase because of the passage of the CHIPS and Science Act in 2022, which authorized a huge budget increase for the NSF. Instead, the NSF FY24 budget was cut by almost 9%. That is going to have an impact on the national biomedical research effort as well.
- At the state level:
  - CIRM is undergoing a lot of change as they search for new leadership, including a president.
  - CIRM had decided to dedicate \$1.5 billion dollars towards research on neurological disease and neuropsychiatric disease.
  - This will lead to new programs and new grant offerings towards basic science as well as translational and clinical efforts.
  - This provides an exciting opportunity for CIAPM to be in communication with CIRM leadership to coordinate efforts and potentially develop synergistic collaborations.

## Updates from the Governor's Cabinet

Richard Figueroa, MBA, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

- The January budget is a real-time snapshot of expected revenues and expenditures based on data state received in October and November.
  - The legislature must also enact a budget by June 30 via the May Revision, once the complete dataset from November-March is compiled in addition to information from taxes filed in April.
  - The Administration is seeing a slight revenue downturn and is therefore planning to constrain expenses, especially in consideration of our various multi-year programmatic commitments.
- Commends CIAPM in taking on the broader scope of precision medicine beyond grant administration, making greater connections between the California government and the rest of the state, such as the life science industries and CA teaching institutions.
- CIAPM should remain in continuous communication with the legislature, especially because of the large turnover in the legislature every two and four years. Keep current legislature aware of the existence and mission of CIAPM, as well as its connection to other state and federal efforts.

## Administrative Business

### 1) Updates from the CIAPM team

- New team member: Ramon Martinez, PhD - Science Communications Officer
- New role: Theresa Spezzano, MS, PhD - Equity Officer

### 2) Previous Meeting Summary (Dec. 18, 2023)

*Ysabel: Motion to approve the meeting summary*

*Diana: Second the motion*

*No oppositions, the motion passes*

## Major Program Updates

- 1) Team updates
  - Two staff onboarded
  - Recently held an in-person, whole-team strategy session for 2024
- 2) Representative Research Collaborative
  - MOU with NIH was officially signed, and the partnership has officially launched
  - Equitable Consent Frameworks website is now live, the primary product of the Advisory Council Equitable Consent Frameworks Working Group
- 3) Cancer Disparities Projects
  - All three projects have concluded
  - Evaluations initiated, including recruitment of out-of-state experts
- 4) ARPA-H activities
  - SDSU will host a summit for minority-serving institutions
  - Research! America Roundtable with ARPA-H leadership
- 5) Network expansion
  - Philanthropy
  - CSU Chancellor's Office Research Department
  - Biocom California
  - SRI International
  - NASEM Government-University-Industry Research Roundtable
  - National Institute of Mental Health
  - National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke
  - UN Commission on Science & Technology for Development

## Programmatic overview: Communications

### Reports

- Annual Reports
  - 2022 Annual Report Published
  - 2023 Annual Report Under Production
  - Sections: Background, Message from Director, Demonstration Projects, Representative Research Collaborative, Impact Assessments, Program Highlights, Future Priorities
- Cancer Evaluation Report
  - Under Production
  - Sections: Project Summaries, Achievements, Expert Evaluation, Assessment in Addressing Programmatic Goals.

### Newsletters

- Bi-monthly newsletters to over 1200 recipients
- Features:
  - Project achievements
  - Programmatic news
  - External opportunities
  - Researcher Spotlights
- Archived newsletter issues are available online

- Monthly contributions to the OPR-wide Newsletter

#### Website updates

- Recently Added:
  - Equitable Consent Frameworks for Research
  - ACEs Landing Pages & Project Descriptions
  - Expert Committees (Depression RFP and Cancer Evaluation)
  - Researcher Spotlights
  - Staff Updates
  - Awards & News

#### News & Press

- CBS Morning News Media Inquiry
- Drafting a Press Release about the MOU with NIH All of Us
- Advancements with Ted Danson Media Inquiry

#### Additional Outlets

- Social Media
  - Twitter/X
  - LinkedIn
- Peer-Reviewed Publications
  - Exploring bandwidth and opportunities to publish a detailed account of CIAPM's research model

## Updates: Demonstration Projects

### Cancer Disparities

- CIAPM's three Cancer Disparities projects completed in 2023, and staff have initiated an evaluations process, as required by statute, which is expected to be completed in late Q3 or Q4 this year.
- Evaluation Committee: Three members served on the original 2018 Selection Committee, and three were recommended by Lead Investigators or their networks. Two committee members will evaluate each project.
  - Gloria Coronado, PhD (Professor, University of Arizona)
  - Martha "Meg" Gaines, JD, LLM (Clinical Professor Emerita, University of Wisconsin)
  - Elizabeth Gross Cohn, RN, PhD, FAAN (Vice President for Health Equity Research, Northwell Health)
  - Jennifer Mack, MD, MPH (Associate Professor, Harvard University)
  - Elaine Mardis, PhD (Professor, Ohio State University)
  - Rulla Tamimi, SciD, MS (Professor, Cornell University)

### ACEs Research Projects

- ACEs projects have requested one-year no-cost extensions, which are in process, and projects will now be completed around Summer 2025. Project-specific webpages are online [\[link\]](#).
- CIAPM staff conducted annual site visits for the seven ACEs projects in Winter 2023/Spring 2024.

- CIAPM continues to seek out opportunities to facilitate coordination and collaboration between ACEs projects, including a plan for a panel submission at a 2025 conference (e.g., American Academy of Pediatrics, Society for Research on Child Development, or Pediatric American Societies).

## Depression Research Program

- Overview
  - \$9 million for research demonstration grants, 3-5 projects, up to \$3 million per project, 36-month project period.
  - Competitive grant program to support precision medicine-based approaches to preventing, diagnosing, and treating depression.
  - Projects must be co-led by a CBO or community clinic and include a private sector collaborator.
- Timeline
  - Jan. 17, 2024: Concept Proposal Selection Meeting
  - Jan. 2024: Notification of Finalists
  - Feb. 15, 2024: Due Full Proposals
  - Spring-Summer 2024: Awardees Announced
  - Summer-Fall 2024: Anticipated Project Start
- Expert Selection Committee
  - Recruited 17 out-of-state experts for the Selection Committee.
  - For the first time, experts will be compensated for their contribution.
  - Selection committee members and bios are on the CIAPM website [[link](#)].
- Selection Process
  - Letters of Intent: 60 total from 25 institutions
  - Concept proposals: 41 total from 22 institutions
  - Full proposals: 16 total from 8 institutions
  - Expected awardees: 3-5 from 3-5 institutions
- Logistical Updates
  - Finalists propose to develop new healthcare technologies and evidence-based behavioral interventions for minoritized communities, including youth with autism, are at-risk, or who identify as a sexual minority, as well as immigrants and farmworkers, Asian-American/Pacific Islander communities, Middle-Eastern/North African communities, and people with perinatal depression.
  - Instructions for Full Proposals incorporated feedback from September 2023 Council Meeting to include equity and accountability statement.
  - CIAPM is pursuing potential philanthropic partnerships to increase funding capacity and impact across California.

## Representative Research Collaborative

The Representative Research Collaborative has established a Memorandum of Understanding with the NIH *All of Us* Research Program to advance the research program among underrepresented participant populations and researchers in the

Central Valley and Northern California. This growing program intends to use the State's extensive community and researcher relationships to further the mission of NIH's All of Us Research Program. CIAPM intends to disseminate existing All of Us engagement assets to California's diverse population, public university community, and public employees through existing communications streams.

### Updates and ongoing developments

- February:
  - Executed MOU with *All of Us*
  - Executed Data Use Agreement with *All of Us* to access *All of Us* Researcher Workbench for researcher engagement
  - Refining workplan demarcating timelines and potential agency partners
- March:
  - March 12 kickoff meeting with *All of Us* team; March 22 onboarding meeting; work plan development meeting; workstream-specific meetings (tribal engagement, researcher engagement, participant and community engagement)
  - Plan to reconnect with state agency partners from original 2020 proposal
  - New partnerships and outreach
  - Publication of Equitable Consent resources to CIAPM webpage

### Workplan overview

#### *Outreach through State and local public agencies and their networks*

- **CIAPM Participant outreach responsibilities per the MOU**
- Partnering with *All of Us* consortium members to expand the reach and awareness of *All of Us*:
  - Primarily focusing outreach efforts related to engagement and enrollment in *All of Us* on individuals from populations that are underrepresented as participants in biomedical research, especially those residing in the Central Valley and Northern California regions.
  - Exploring and possibly facilitating outreach and engagement campaigns to public employees and/or consumers of state services.
  - Referring interested individuals to *All of Us* enrollment partners in the region as well as providing guidance to join independently via the [www.joinallofus.org](http://www.joinallofus.org) webpage.
  - Collaborating with local enrollment partners to increase access to and awareness of enrollment and engagement opportunities with local and national partners in *All of Us*.
  - Working collaboratively with the DEO Tribal Engagement team to engage the AI/AN Indigenous population in California.
- Methods
  - Dissemination of promotional assets will flow through listservs, public services access portals such as <https://benefitscal.com/> (one-stop portal allowing consumers to apply for, view, and renew benefits for health coverage, food and cash assistance), events, social media, and/or print handouts.

- Channels:
  - Community based organizations (CBOs) contracted with agencies
  - Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs)
  - Direct dissemination from agencies to benefits consumers
  - Health plans: DHCS: Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans, Covered California
  - Health care providers: CDPH-licensed FQHCs and RHCs; Department of Health Care Access & Information healthcare workforce and trainees
  - CBOs which have relationships with agencies
  - Dedicated webpage about the program, hosted by the Governor's Office of Planning & Research
  - Tribal engagement: OPR Tribal Coordination Working Group, Governor's Office of Tribal Affairs [\[link\]](#)
- Direct dissemination from public agencies to their employees
  - State Departments
  - Higher Education: Direct dissemination from California State University (CSU) to faculty and students
  - Capacity Building: information sessions and possibly interagency workshops aimed toward departments who may be interested in joining the effort

## Researcher Engagement

- Roles & Responsibilities: Researcher outreach responsibilities per the MOU. Engaging with diverse researchers, through various ongoing efforts including, but not limited to:
  - Increasing Researcher Outreach and Awareness
  - Researcher Education and Training
  - Capacity Building for Institutions
- Methods and channels
  - UC Merced Office of Research Development (ORD) Training via ORD curated list
  - CSU STEM-NET
  - CIRM: Network of funded investigators, institutions, and companies [\[link\]](#)

## Public Comment

Allison Ramiller (Advocate Leader, Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance):

**Q:** Contacted David Reiner to receive an overview on CIAPM's cancer focus and interested in engaging with CIAPM further. Asked if CIAPM is still accepting comments for 2024 planning, and mechanism to submit a statement from the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance

**A:** CIAPM is constantly in a process of strategic planning and adapting to new circumstances, and always welcomes additional comments.