



California State Treasurer's Office **NEWS RELEASE**

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State Treasurer Fiona Ma Reappoints Linda Malkas, Judy Chou to California Institute for Regenerative Medicine Governing Board

SACRAMENTO – State Treasurer Fiona Ma has reappointed Linda Malkas, PhD. and Judy Chou, PhD. to the Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee (ICOC), which serves as the governing board of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). Both will serve six-year terms.

Malkas is currently professor and associate chair of the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at the Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope, serving as the deputy director of basic research. In 2011, she co-founded the Molecular Oncology Program at the cancer center. Malkas received her bachelor's degree in chemistry and PhD. in biochemistry from the City University of New York.

Chou is the President, CEO, and member of the Board of Directors of AltruBio, Inc., a clinical-stage biotech company focused on developing novel therapeutics for the treatment of immunological and inflammatory diseases. She has more than 25 years of experience in drug development and biomanufacturing. Before joining AltruBio she headed the global Biotech organization at Bayer Pharmaceuticals. Chou obtained her PhD at Yale, her post-doctoral training at the Max-Planck Institute in Germany, and was a research faculty member at Harvard University Medical School focusing on cell biology and neuroscience.

“Dr. Malkas and Dr. Chou have proven themselves to be tireless advocates for CIRM and its mission to find cures,” said Treasurer Ma. “Their combination of experience on the board and decades of real-world application in research and biotechnology make them effective members on behalf of Californians.”

The ICOC is composed of up to 35 Californians with expertise in managing large research grants and complex institutions and conducting cutting edge medical research; understanding the critical path for the development of successful experimental medical treatments and directing the approval process through the Food and Drug Administration and other regulatory bodies and ethical committees; and advocating on behalf of Californians who suffer from a variety of chronic diseases and injuries.

CIRM was created in 2004 when California voters approved Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative. Voters approved continued funding for the agency in 2020. CIRM funds stem cell research with the goal of accelerating stem cell treatments to patients with unmet medical needs.

The state treasurer has six appointments to the ICOC, with eligibility for each defined in statute.

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Fiona Ma is California's 34th State Treasurer. She is the first woman of color and the first woman Certified Public Accountant (CPA) elected to the position. The State Treasurer's Office provides financing for schools, roads, housing, recycling and waste management, hospitals, public facilities, and other crucial infrastructure projects that better the lives of residents. Treasurer Ma serves as the state's primary banker. Her office processes more than \$3 trillion in banking transactions annually, manages an investment portfolio that currently averages over \$200 billion, and serves as agent of sale for all state bonds and is trustee of billions of dollars of state indebtedness.

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