

1750 OCEAN PARK BOULEVARD, #200, SANTA MONICA, CA 90405 - 4938
TEL: 310-392-0522 • FAX: 310-392-8874 • NET: CONSUMERWATCHDOG.ORG

March 22, 2007

Dr. Zach Hall
President and Chief Scientific Officer
California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
210 King Street
San Francisco, CA

Dear Dr. Hall:

I am writing to urge that the stem cell institute investigate CHA Regenerative Medicine Institute in Los Angeles before paying out its \$2.6 million grant to one of its researchers.

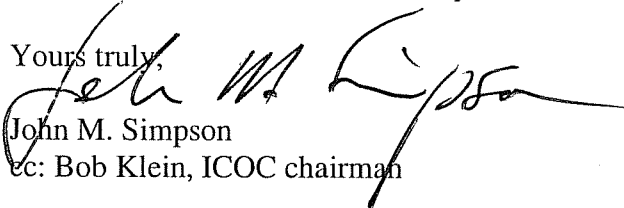
First, it is not clear what the institution's affiliation is with its corporate parents CHA Medical, CHA Biotech and other corporate for-profit entities. Kwang-Yul Cha is the chief executive of CHA Health Systems, Chairman of Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center and director of CHA Regenerative Medicine Institute. Is CHA RMI truly a non-profit institution eligible for funding in this round of grants?

Second, there have been serious questions raised about Kwang-Yul Cha. As reported by the *Los Angeles Times*, a spokesman for the California State Medical Board says Cha is violating the law by using MD after his name when he is not licensed to practice medicine in California. He is also embroiled in a plagiarism dispute in which he was listed as the primary author on a medical paper that appeared in December 2005 in the U.S. medical journal *Fertility and Sterility*. But, according to the *Times*, that paper appears to be nearly a paragraph-for-paragraph, chart-for-chart copy of a junior researcher's doctoral thesis, which appeared in a Korean medical journal nearly two years earlier.

Finally, Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center has recently been implicated in dumping homeless patients on skid row.

It is imperative that stem cell research funded by the state of California be conducted only by organizations demonstrating the highest ethical standards. Based on what is known so far, a thorough examination of the activities of CHA Regenerative Medicine Institute, its affiliates and leadership are in order before any funds are transferred.

Yours truly,


John M. Simpson

cc: Bob Klein, ICOC chairman