



**Parkinson's Institute
and Clinical Center**

Press Release
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Contact:
Chris Di Salvo
Mobile: (408) 506-0455
E-mail: profeff@aol.com

The Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center awarded \$1.9 million from California Institute for Regenerative Medicine to study key protein implicated in Parkinson's Disease

Sunnyvale, CA. The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine awarded Birgitt Schuele, MD, director of gene discovery and stem cell modeling at the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center, \$1.9 million to study the effects of downregulation of a key protein implicated in Parkinson's disease as a potential novel gene therapy approach.

It is estimated that approximately 36,000-60,000 people in the State of California are affected with Parkinson's. "Alpha-synuclein has been a leading target since its discovery in 1997 as a Parkinson's gene and the observation that alpha-synuclein is a main neuropathological hallmark of Parkinson's, called Lewy bodies can now be studied with this grant," says Dr. Schuele. "If there is too much alpha-synuclein in the brain, it can lead to neuronal cell death. Lowering alpha-synuclein levels using cutting-edge gene engineering technology is expected to counteract neurodegeneration in Parkinson's."

This project will be in collaboration with the University Lund, Sweden, in partnership with Dr. Deniz Kirik. The collaboration will provide substantial benefits by developing new therapeutic candidates for the treatment of Parkinson's disease enabled by stem cell technologies and gene therapy.

"We are very pleased with this award and congratulate Dr. Schuele," says Dr. Carolee Barlow, CEO, Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center. "The mission of the Institute is to find a cure for Parkinson's and this grant will fund work to bring us closer to our goal."

About the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center:

The mission of the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center is to provide comprehensive patient care, while discovering new treatment options to improve the quality of life for all Parkinson's patients. As America's only independent non-profit organization combining research and patient

care for Parkinson's under one roof, we are committed to changing the landscape of movement disorder treatment and research. Since its founding, the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center has helped thousands of Parkinson's patients better manage their disease, developed new treatments for Parkinson's, and published groundbreaking research aimed to close the gap between science and practical care. By focusing on all three avenues of Parkinson's - cause, care and cure – the Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center is a powerful force in Parkinson's research. For more information, please visit www.thepi.org

Parkinson's Institute and Clinical Center
675 Almanor Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94085
(408) 734-2800 | Toll Free: (800) 655-2273 | Fax: (408) 734-845

www.thepi.org