

## The Cure Alliance is officially a 501(c)3 supporter membership surges past 50,000

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It has been an exciting year at The Cure Alliance, formerly The Cure-Focused Research Alliance. Our name has changed, but our goals are the same: to identify and break down barriers to scientific discovery in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and help accelerate potential cures from the laboratory to the bedside.

We all have an important stake and an important voice as our core membership is a collection of leading translational scientists, physicians, surgeons and innovators plus those who support their efforts to end human suffering and cure chronic, debilitating and fatal diseases.

To this end, on January 20, 2016, the IRS approved our tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)3. This means that we can now accept charitable donations that are tax deductible. We have updated our donation page on our web site [www.thecurealliance.org/donate/](http://www.thecurealliance.org/donate/) and we welcome your contributions.

We continue to raise public awareness and support initiatives in line with our strategic mission. Last May our Board traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with the House Energy Committee leadership sponsoring the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act, as recently reported<sup>1</sup>. Now that it has passed in the full House of Representatives, we will continue to work with Senate leaders on this exciting bill.

The Cure Alliance has forged a supportive and meaningful partnership with the team behind the Senate bill known as The REGROW Act, S. 2689, a bipartisan legislation to reduce barriers to medical innovation and accelerate the development of new regenerative medicine treatments which have the potential to restore or establish normal function in damaged human cells, tissues and organs<sup>2</sup>.

Introduced on March 16, 2016 by U.S. Senators Mark Kirk (R-Ill), Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine), REGROW is an acronym

for “Reliable and Effective Growth for Regenerative a Health Options that Improve Wellness.”

Sen. Kirk spoke of his personal commitment to the legislation: “As a stroke survivor, I know how much potential new regenerative therapies have for the thousands of other stroke survivors nationwide. The REGROW Act provides clarity for companies and doctors who are developing breakthrough products and helping their patients. By expanding options for those living with Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, diabetes and stroke, we can help more patients live the life they want on their own terms.”

“We must support important medical research to find cures and treatments to the many medical challenges we face,” Senator Manchin said. “This bipartisan legislation will improve the approval process of low risk therapies that could have significant benefits to someone struggling with burns and wounds, arthritis, ALS, and may be able to be used to help people recover from stroke. I am glad to join my colleagues to ensure these therapies are accessible to help treat these injuries and diseases.”

“Regenerative medicine holds incredible potential for the future of health care in our country and around the world. Through the development of innovative therapies and products, regenerative medicine could one day fully heal damaged tissues and organs, providing needed cures for diseases and conditions that are untreatable today,” said Senator Collins. “The bipartisan REGROW Act will help make certain that the regulatory framework in the United States facilitates and helps support the development and continued progress in this important area of medicine.”

Later this year, The Cure Alliance President, Shelley Ross, is scheduled to give a presentation to the FDA in a public hearing in Bethesda, MD regarding the government’s controversial Draft

Guidance on Regulation of Human Cells, Tissues, Cellular or Tissue-Based Products<sup>3</sup>. Information on live streaming of the session will be posted on The Cure Alliance website.

Our Board is currently in conversations with Vice President Biden “Moonshot” organizers as well, offering input to accelerate a cure for cancer<sup>4</sup>.

We encourage your feedback and participation as the outcome of our upcoming meetings may influence translational medicine and the lives of our patients for decades to come.

Finally, in 2016, we hope to further boost our “supporter” membership ranks, now exceeding 50,000. We plan to step up fundraising to increase our public awareness campaigns and expand our website [www.thecurealliance.org](http://www.thecurealliance.org).

We are grateful for your continuing support and contributions to CellR4, our official journal. Our collaborative efforts will help ensure that NIH funding and government regulations keep pace with the rapid rate of discovery.

Please help us update our membership roll with any new contact information (which we do not share) and let us know if there’s a barrier to your research you’d like us to tackle.

## REFERENCES

1. Ross S, Brunicardi C, Ricordi C. New Legislative Initiative to Promote 21st Century Cures Marches Towards Congress Following Unanimous Approval by the House Energy and Commerce Committee. *CellR4* 2015; 3(3): e1591.
2. <https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/s2689/BILLS-114s2689is.pdf>
3. Docket No. FDA-2014-D-1856: Comments to the Draft Guidance Document Titled “Human Cells, Tissues, and Cellular and Tissue-Based Products (HCT/Ps) from Adipose Tissue: Regulatory Considerations; Draft Guidance for Industry” (December 2014).
4. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/.../fact-sheet-investing-national..> Feb 1, 2016 - During his 2016 State of the Union Address, President Obama called on Vice President Biden to lead a new, national “Moonshot” initiative.