

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**

Monday, May 1, 2017
TEDCO Offices, 7021 Columbia Gateway Drive, Suite 200
Columbia, MD

Action Items

1. A motion was made and seconded to allocate about \$20,000 from the FY2018 administrative costs to support monthly roundtable sessions for up to two (2) years. The motion passed unanimously.
 2. A motion was made and seconded to allow two (2) funding cycles per funding year for the Validation and Commercialization programs, beginning in FY2018. The motion passed unanimously.
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Members in attendance:

Rachel Brewster
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Haig Kazazian
Marye Kellermann
David Mosser, Vice Chair
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner, Chair
Diane Hoffmann
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell
Bo Weisheit

Staff in Attendance:

Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Amritha Jaishankar, TEDCO
Ann Pulley, TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m.

Dr. Avram Reisner welcomed and introduced new Commission Member Haig Kazazian, Jr., Ph.D., who has been appointed by JHU to fill former member Noel Rose's seat on the Commission. Dr. Kazazian is a Professor of Pediatrics and Molecular Biology & Genetics.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the September 21, 2016 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed.

II. Executive Director Report

Dr. Dan Gincel reported the following:

A. Ninth Annual MSCRF Symposium

The ninth Annual MSCRF Symposium will be integrated with the TEDCO Entrepreneur EXPO Conference at the Hilton Baltimore Hotel, October 25, 2017. The conference will showcase life science, stem cell, and technology sectors, promoting collaborations between professionals in these industries. The event will feature many speakers, and will have a stem cell track that will commence in parallel to EXPO programming. More info will be provided as it becomes available.

B. FY'2018 Budget-Update

TEDCO's funding was reduced by \$993,000 (5%) for FY'18, from \$19.467M to \$18.474M. This reduction is in the form of:

- Stem Cell Research Fund-funding reduced from \$9.093M to \$8.2M (\$893k cut)
- Life Science Investment Fund-funding reduced from \$1.101M to \$1.001M (\$100k cut)

All other programs remain at FY'17 levels.

C. TEDCO Expansion & Stem Cell Award Manager Updates

Dr. Gincel gave a brief update on TEDCO's expansion, the CEO search, and introduced Amritha Jaishankar, Ph.D. as the new MSCRF Award Manager.

D. Open Meeting Act Update

Maryland's Open Meetings Act is a statute that requires State and local public bodies, such as the MSCRF Commission to hold their meetings in public, to give the public adequate notice of those meetings, and to allow the public to inspect meeting minutes.

Effective October 1, 2016, the Commission is required to make the meeting agenda available to the public 24 hours in advance before each meeting. The agenda must contain topics to be discussed and must indicate whether the public body expects to close any portion of the meeting.

Lastly, effective October 1, 2017 the Commission will be required to designate at least one member to complete the Maryland Open Meeting Act training. A trained member must be present during each Commission meeting. There was a consensus the Chair and Vice Chair should be the designees to complete the required training.

E. Stem Cell Meetings

Dr. Gincel attended the BioHealth Capital Region Forum 2017 conference, held April 19-20, 2017 on behalf of the Fund and the Commission.

TEDCO/MSCRF has partnered with the University of Maryland BioPark to host the Science in the City networking event on June 29, 2017. This will be strictly social, a casual meet and greet event.

F. Future Commission Meeting Schedule

The Commission meetings will commence the first Monday of every odd month. The meetings will be held at TEDCO (Columbia, MD) from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. If the scheduled meeting day falls on a holiday, the meeting will be rescheduled for the following Monday.

2017 Meeting Schedule (2 p.m. – 5 p.m.)

Monday, July 10, 2017

Monday, September 11, 2017

Monday, November 6, 2017

III. Accelerating Cure Program Changes – Discussion

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program

Dr. Gincel indicated that after meeting with many of the MSCRF awarded post-doctoral fellows, it became clear that many of the researchers lack the necessary tools and resources to advance their careers/studies after the completion of the funded research. Dr. Gincel presented a concept to coordinate monthly Roundtable sessions to assist the MSCRF funded researchers with potential career development challenges. A recommendation was made to allocate about \$20,000 from the FY2018 administrative costs to support the effort for up to two (2) years.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

Validation and Commercialization Program

A recommendation was made to allow two (2) funding cycles per funding year for the Validation and Commercialization programs, beginning in FY2018. Applicants who received funding during the first cycle will not be eligible to reapply for additional funding in the second funding cycle.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendation as submitted. The motion approved unanimously.

IV. Appointment Requirements

The Stem Cell Act stipulates that Commission members continue to serve until their replacements have been appointed. Commission members who have reached the end of their appointment term are asked to continue to serve until replaced.

Commission members appointed by the Governor who fails to attend at least 50% of the meetings during a consecutive 12-month period will be considered to have resigned. If a member did not meet the attendance requirement and wishes to serve, the member must submit a waiver request to the Governor's office for approval.

Dr. Kevin FitzGerald was unable to meet the attendance requirement for calendar year 2016 and is considered to have resigned from the Commission. Dr. Gincel thanked Dr. FitzGerald for his invaluable service to the Commission and has contacted the Governor's office for his replacement.

V. Statement for Closing the Meeting

A motion was made and seconded that the Commission go into closed session. The motion stated the following:

STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION

State Government Article Sec.10-503(a)(1)(i):

This subtitle does not apply to ... a public body when it is carrying out ... an administrative function.

State Government Article Sec.10-508(a)(5):

A public body may meet in closed session ... to consider the investment of public funds.

State Government Article Sec.10-508(a)(13):

A public body may meet in closed session ... to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

The discussion will concern the implementation of the Commission’s previously adopted criteria for grant funding. The Commission will discuss which applications to recommend for funding, given the scientific rankings and other relevant factors. The discussion might also relate to the characteristics of specific applications.

REASON FOR CLOSING:

Paralleling the NIH process for considering funding applications, the Commission believes that confidentiality is essential to protect the sensitive information about plans and processes that applicants divulge, to avoid a chilling effect on future submissions, and to enable the most candid Commission discussion of how best to invest its limited resources.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 10:19 am.

In the closed session, the Commission reviewed the scientific peer review ranking of, and key information about, the applications recommended for funding within the five current categories of grant funding (Clinical, Discovery, Validation, Commercialization, and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Applications). All applicants' names and affiliated institutions had been redacted. The Commission focused on applications that received competitive, meritorious scientific scores, giving priority to applications that included collaborations, regenerative medicine, translational research, and underfunded areas of research.

The Commission recommended applications from each of these four funding categories for TEDCO Board approval.

<u>RFA Type</u>	<u>Recommended Awards</u>	<u>Total</u>
Clinical	2	\$1,500,000
Discovery	12	\$4,105,027
Validation	3	\$690,000
Commercialization	4	\$1,198,960
Fellowship	8 + 2*	\$1,040,000
Total	29 + 2	\$8,533,987

*Additional applications that are recommended in the event that an award is declined. These applicants will not be notified of their “waiting list” status.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.