

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

Monday, March 4, 2019
TEDCO Offices,
Columbia, MD

Action Items

1. A motion was made and seconded to include the clinical program to both (January and July) funding cycles. The motion passed unanimously.
 2. The Commission formed a Sub-Committee to discuss potential program changes. Commission members Dr. Debra Mathews (Vice Chair), Dr. Rachel Brewster, Dr. Scott Bailey, Mr. Bowen Weisheit, and Mr. Ira Schwartz, all agreed to serve.
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Members in attendance:

Scott Bailey
Rachel Brewster
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Diane Hoffmann
Haig Kazazian
Debra Mathews, Vice Chair
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell
Bowen Weisheit

Staff in Attendance:

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

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the November 5, 2018 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Director Report

A. Annapolis Session/Budget Discussion

TEDCO was called to testify before the House and Senate Subcommittees on the annual budget and for bills related to the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund. The legislative budget analyst did not recommend any changes to the Governor's budget for the Fund (\$8.2M).

B. FY2019 2nd Funding Cycle – Review Process Update

The Scientific Peer Review Committee meeting is scheduled March 17 - 21, 2019. The reviewers have been identified and assigned applications. Travel arrangements and the meeting location have been secured. The Commission will meet in May 2019 to review the Committees recommendations for funding.

C. Public Information Act (PIA)

A request was made through the PIA to receive information regarding operational activities for the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and other TEDCO programs. Procedural guidelines were implemented to provide the inquirer with requested public information.

D. New MSCRF Website

The new MSCRF website is now available. The updates include a new design, improved usability across multiple platforms, more informative content (local/national stem cell news, conferences/events, company highlights), funding opportunities, awards, annual reports, Commission & Staff info. Since the January 2019 launch, google analytics tracked approx. 3,600 visits to the new site. We'll continue to monitor the analytics and will launch marketing campaigns to increase/maintain website traffic.

E. 2019 Commission Meeting Schedule

May 6, 2019 – 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

July 1, 2019 – 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Sept. 9, 2019 – 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Nov. 4, 2019 – 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.

III. Review of Programs Performance FY17-FY19

Dr. Jaishankar presented the FY17- FY19 Programs Performance Review, providing an update on all five funding program activities since the launch of the Accelerating Cures initiative. Dr. Jaishankar provided an overview of the number of applications received, grant awards, funded companies, transitioning awards, and the current funding cycles.

Clinical Program

During discussion, a recommendation was made to include the clinical program to both funding cycles per year to help meet the need for clinical trial funding. A motion was made and seconded to include the clinical program to both (January and July) funding cycles. The motion passed unanimously.

Fellowship Program

The Commission formed a Sub-Committee to discuss the future direction for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program and to brainstorm new mission focused initiatives. Commission members Dr. Debra Mathews (Vice Chair), Dr. Rachel Brewster, Dr. Scott Bailey, Mr. Bowen Weisheit, and Mr. Ira Schwartz, all agreed to serve. Dr. Gincel will work with the Committee to synthesize the concepts and will prepare a recommendation for Commission review during the July or September 2019 meeting.

IV. Other

Dr. Gincel emphasized the importance of leveraging the Fund's limited resources, expanding outreach efforts (outside of Maryland), and continual efforts to establish/foster collaborations with leading local & global organizations to advance groundbreaking research, stem cell therapy, and technologies to market. Dr. Gincel encouraged the Commission to forward him information on leads that could potentially turn into partnerships.

Interest to leverage the Fund's resources stimulated a discussion about the recommended FY2020 budget and the Commission expressed a need to develop a sustainable funding strategy for additional support during the legislative sessions. The Commission will revisit the discussion during the July 2019 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 p.m.