

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

Monday, May 6, 2019  
TEDCO Offices,  
Columbia, MD

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**No Action Items**

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**Members in attendance:**

Scott Bailey  
Rachel Brewster  
Diane Hoffmann  
Haig Kazazian  
Debra Mathews, Vice Chair  
David Mosser, 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 9:03 a.m.

**I. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the March 4, 2019 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Executive Director Report**

**A. FY'20 Budget - Update**

There were no reductions to the Stem Cell FY'20 budget, which remains at level funding from FY'19 (\$8.2M).

**B. FY 2020 RFAs (1<sup>st</sup> Funding Cycle Only)**

The FY'20 RFAs for the validation, commercialization, and clinical programs were released (1<sup>st</sup> funding cycle only). The application deadline is July 11, 2019. The Scientific Review Committee will review the applications in August 2019 and Commission Review meeting will be held in Sept. 2019.

**C. Program Evaluation Sub-Committee - Update**

The Commission formed a Sub-Committee to discuss the future direction of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program and to brainstorm new mission-focused initiatives. The Sub-Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet May 16, 2019.

### III. 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 9:20 am.

In the closed session, the Commission reviewed the scientific peer review ranking of, and key information about, the applications recommended for funding within three of 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.

<b><u>RFA Type</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended Awards</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Discovery	14 + 3*	\$4,812,684
Commercialization	3	\$899,990
Fellowship	7 + 2*	\$910,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>24 + 5</b>	<b>\$6,622,674</b>

\*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 3:30 p.m.