

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

Tuesday, January 14, 2020
TEDCO Offices,
Columbia, MD

Members:

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

Staff:

Stephen Auvil, TEDCO
Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Amritha Jaishankar, TEDCO
Linda Singh, TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, TEDCO

Guests:

Taby Ahsan, Roosterbio, Inc.
Myra Norton, TEDCO Board

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

Dr. Dan Gincel welcomed and introduced Ms. Myra Norton, Chair, TEDCO Board, and Dr. Linda Singh, Interim Executive Director and CEO, TEDCO. Dr. Singh gave a brief overview of her background and shared her enthusiasm for joining and leading TEDCO during the transition period.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

II. Awardee Presentation

Dr. Taby Ahsan, *VP of Research and Development, Roosterbio*, an awardee of the MSCRF commercialization program, presented an overview of her awarded project highlighting the commercial plan, milestone progress, and accomplishments.

III. Executive Director Report

Dr. Gincel presented the Executive Director's Report, which focused on the following:

A. FY 2020 RFAs (2nd Funding Cycle)

The FY'20 RFAs for all 6 funding programs (*Launch, Validation, Discovery, Commercialization, Clinical, and Fellowship*) were released. The application deadline is January 16, 2020. The Scientific Peer Review Committee will be held in March, 2020 and Commission Review meeting will be held in April, 2020.

B. New Mobile App

The new MSCRF mobile app was released and is available for download in the mobile app store for apple and android operating systems. The newly developed mobile app is an integrated, informative, and interactive extension of the MSCRF website and we will continue to enhance its capabilities as needed.

C. 2019 Annual Report

The 2019 Annual Report is complete and a digital copy is available for download on the MSCRF website (www.MSCRF.org)

D. Legislative Session 2020

The 2020 General Assembly Session has begun. There were no reductions to the proposed Stem Cell FY'21 budget, which remains at level funding from FY'20 (\$8.2M). As always, TEDCO will be called to testify on the MSCRF annual budget and any relevant bills before the Senate and House Subcommittees. Dr. Gincel will keep the Commission informed.

E. Past/Future Meeting Updates:

Dr. Debra Mathews, Dr. Amritha Jaishankar, and Dr. Dan Gincel indicated their participation, collaboration and/or attendance for the following conferences on behalf of the Fund and the Commission:

- (UMB-MSCRF) Award Presentation & Lecture (January 29, 2020 Baltimore, MD)
- (UMB-MSCRF) Confronting CRISPR: Scientific, Ethical, Legal and Social Issues on the Path Forward (January 30, 2020, Baltimore, MD)
- WSCS/Phacilitate (January 2020, Miami, FL)

IV. Cell Therapy Discussion

Dr. Jaishankar indicated cell therapy is rapidly evolving and there is a growing demand to fund gene modified cell therapy in Maryland. Dr. Jaishankar shared a global market analysis to highlight current advances within the field and questioned if funding advanced cell therapies falls within the statutory mission of the Commission/Fund. During the discussion, the notion of funding cell therapy was well received, however, there were a number of overarching questions and concerns that will require clarity prior to further discussion. The Commission will revisit the discussion at a future meeting.

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 §10-503(a)(1)(i):

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

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

The discussion will concern issues around the 2020 MSCRF budget and the proposed formation of a Budget Committee from among the Commission's members.

REASON FOR CLOSING:

The Commission believes that confidentiality is essential to enable the most candid discussion of both budgetary issues between the MSCRF and its administrator, TEDCO, and the qualifications and willingness to serve of any candidates to serve on a Budget Committee, should one be formed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:18 p.m.