

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

Thursday, September 5, 2019
TEDCO Offices,
Columbia, MD

Members in attendance:

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 in Attendance:

Stephen Auvil, TEDCO
Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Amritha Jaishankar, TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, TEDCO
Jody Sprinkle, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

Dr. Gincel welcomed and introduced Stephen Auvil as the acting Executive Director, TEDCO and Jody Sprinkle as the new Director of Government Relations, TEDCO. Ms. Sprinkle followed with a brief background overview of her 20-year experience as a policy analyst for various entities including the MD General Assembly.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the July 1, 2019 and August 8, 2019 meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve both sets of meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Director Report

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

A. FY'20 Budget Update

The Fund is budgeted at \$8.2 million for FY'20 and the first tranche of funds are available to commit to the FY'20 first funding cycle awards. Management will issue a press release announcing the new FY'20 awards. All applicants will be notified of their application status prior to the press release.

B. Past/Future Meeting Updates:

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

Past Events:

- Harvard Stem Cell Institute, BRM 2019 Conference (July 2019, Boston, MA)

Future Events:

- Boston Biotech Week (Sept. 9-12, Boston, MA)
- What's the State-of-the-Art in Stem Cell (Sept. 25, 2019, Germantown, MD)
- ARM Meeting on the Mesa (October 2019, Carlsbad, CA)
- MD. Tech Council, Bio Innovation Conference (October 2019, Bethesda, MD)
- WSCS/Phacilitate (January 2020, Miami, FL)

III. Program Discussion

During the July 2019 meeting, the Commission held a discussion regarding the future direction of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship program, in particular, the option to end or modify the program to support new initiatives such as:

- 1) a commercial undergrad internship program
- 2) a new faculty program – to support new or transitioning faculty to the regenerative medicine field

During the discussion, there was a consensus to keep the fellowship program but to modify the eligibility criteria. In addition, the Commission is very supportive of the proposed initiatives. Dr. Gincel will refine the details for both initiatives and will revisit the discussion during the November 2019 Commission meeting.

IV. 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 2:25 p.m.

In the closed session, the Commission reviewed the scientific peer review ranking of, and key information about, the applications recommended for funding within two current categories of grant funding (Validation, Commercialization 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>
Validation	2	\$459,320
Commercialization	3	\$892,080
Total	5	\$1,351,400

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.