

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Tuesday, June 2, 2020
Virtual Meeting

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
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 16, 2020 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Director Report

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

A. Operational Updates

At this time, MSCRF/TEDCO is fully operational and staff is working remotely. However, management is making preparations and working on the logistics to safely reopen the TEDCO offices to resume normal operations, tentatively by the end of the summer.

All in-person meetings will continue to be held virtually or via teleconference. This includes the upcoming MSCRF Peer Review meeting, Commission meetings, company presentations, and special events.

B. Awardee Updates

We are staying engaged with our current awardees through individual meetings regarding their progress and to communicate important program, operational updates as needed.

Following the Commission review meeting today, we will issue a press release to announce the new 2020 MSCRF awardees for the 2nd funding cycle.

C. Meetings

Dr. Jaishankar and Dr. Gincel indicated their participation in several COVID-19 stem cell related webinars and select cohort events on behalf of the Commission and the Fund.

D. Other

Management is also monitoring COVID related trials using stem cell research and will report any relevant findings to the Commission on a case by case bases.

E. MSCRF FY'20 & FY'21 Budget - Update

While the FY'21 budget remains at level funding from FY'20 (\$8.2M), the Dept. of Budget Management prepared a request to propose a 10% budget reduction across all TEDCO programs, including the Fund. However, there has not been a final decision to reduce the budget at this time. Management will keep the Commission informed of any new updates.

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 necessary to enable candid discussion of the performance of the aforementioned individual(s).

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 9:22 a.m.

In the closed session, the Commission reviewed the scientific peer review ranking of, and key information about, the applications recommended for funding within all of the current categories of grant funding (Clinical, Launch, 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.

<u>RFA Type</u>	<u>Recommended Awards</u>	<u>Total</u>
Clinical	1	\$750,000
Commercialization	1 + 1*	\$300,000
Validation	1	\$230,000
Launch	4	\$1,334,462
Discovery	11 + 1*	\$3,789,297
Post-Doctoral Fellowship	5	\$650,000
Total	<u>23</u>	<u>\$7,053,759</u>

*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.