

Approved January 4, 2021

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**  
Monday, November 2, 2020  
Virtual Meeting

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**Members:**

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

**Guests:**

Geoff Green, Longeveron  
Anthony Oliva, Longeveron

**Staff:**

Stephen Auvil, TEDCO  
Dan Gincel, TEDCO  
Amritha Jaishankar, TEDCO  
Sabrina Spinner, TEDCO  
Troy Stovall, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

**I. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the September 9, 2020 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Awardee Presentation**

Dr. Anthony Oliva, Senior Scientist, Longeveron, an awardee of the MSCRF Clinical program, presented an overview of his awarded projects highlighting milestone progress, future goals, clinical and economic benefits in Maryland.

**III. Executive Director Report**

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

**A. Operational Updates**

MSCRF/TEDCO is fully operational and staff is working remotely. All in-person meetings will continue to be held virtually or via teleconference.

**B. FY2021 Application Deadline (2<sup>nd</sup> funding cycle)**

The FY2021 RFAs were released for all six funding programs and are accessible online through the MSCRF website. The application deadline is January 14, 2021, by 5:00 p.m. Promotional newsletters will be released each week, highlighting a different MSCRF program until the application deadline.

**C. Awardee Updates**

We are staying engaged with our current awardees through individual meetings regarding research activities, revisiting milestone progress, budgets, project timelines affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Dr. Jaishankar has standing meetings with the tech transfer representatives at the universities to advise how to best support faculty funded through the MSCRF programs.

**D. Programmatic Strategic Goals- Update**

- Dr. Jaishankar indicated she and Dr. Gincel attended 18 virtual international conferences, since Sept. 2020, on behalf of the Commission and the Fund. This was made possible by establishing collaborations with multiple national and international organizations to allow Maryland-based researchers and companies to participate/attend scientific meetings free of charge.
- We have increased visibility for the Fund, staying current with new stem cell technologies, and recruiting clinical trials to Maryland.
- We are currently reviewing the current scientific peer review process, evaluating existing reviewers, and identifying and addressing critical gaps.
- We will continue to work on updating our files and databases to remain compliant and audit ready.
- We are working to fill the vacancies on the Commission.

**IV. Other Agencies RFAs**

Following the September Commission meeting, Dr. Gincel and Dr. Jaishankar interacted with several regenerative medicine /stem cell research agencies (federal, state, and international) to assess their approach to leveraging budgets and managing their RFAs during the global economic crisis. They compared best practices and evaluated opportunities for collaboration to strengthen MSCRF and provide more resources to MSCRF awardees.

**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 §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 the performance of the Commission's role in overseeing the operation of the MSCRF, and the duty to oversee the use of budgeted MSCRF funds for various administrative purposes, including but not limited to marketing and business development functions and other costs charged to the Commission for administering the MSCRF.

**REASON FOR CLOSING:**

The Commission believes that confidentiality is essential to enable candid discussion of the process by which it oversees the uses of the aforementioned MSCRF funds.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 3:17p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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