

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, January 4, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Members:

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

Staff:

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

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

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the November 2, 2020 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as modified. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Director Report

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

A. 2020 Annual Report – Update

Dr. Jaishankar presented the 2020 Annual report highlighting medical advancements & treatments, COVID-19 challenges, clinical and economic benefits in Maryland. A [digital copy](#) is now available on the MSCRF website (www.mscref.org).

B. FY'22 Budget Update

TEDCO Management is in discussions with the legislative budget analyst who is considering a \$1M reduction to the MSCRF FY'22 budget (from \$8.2M to \$7.2M) and no cuts to any other TEDCO programs or operating budget.

C. 2021 Legislative Session

Legislative Session 2021 General Assembly Session has begun. Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Legislative session will be held virtually. The Senate and House budget hearings will be held together on February 9, 2021. 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.

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 §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.

State Government Article §10-508(a)(1)(ii): A public body may adjourn an open session to discuss "any . . . personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals".

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED: The discussion will include the job duties and title of one or more individuals in helping the Commission carry out its duties as regards the MSCRF.

REASON FOR CLOSING: The Commission believes that confidentiality may be beneficial to a candid discussion of the job duties and title of the aforementioned individual(s).

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 2:24 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.