

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Tuesday, May 4, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Members:

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

Staff:

Stephen Auvil, TEDCO
Dan Gincel, MSCRF/TEDCO
Amritha Jaishankar, MSCRF/TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF/TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

After 14 years of service, Dr. Dan Gincel announced his resignation as the Executive Director of the MSCRF. The Commission appointed Amritha Jaishankar, Ph.D., as his successor effective May 14, 2021. The Commission expressed sincere appreciation for Dr. Gincel's leadership, contributions, and invaluable service during his tenure. The Commission is looking forward to supporting Dr. Jaishankar's leadership towards the growth, expansion, and impact of the MSCRF within the stem cell community. Dr. Jaishankar expressed her enthusiasm to serve.

The Commission welcomed and introduced new Commission Member Barbara Nsiah, Ph.D. Director, Tissue Systems; United Therapeutics. Dr. Nsiah has been appointed by the MD Senate President to fill the patient advocate seat on the Commission.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed two sets of meeting minutes, from the March 1, 2021 and April 30, 2021 Commission meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve both sets of meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

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 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 9:12 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	\$650,000
Validation	1	\$229,545
Launch	5 + 1*	\$1,718,356
Discovery	7 + 1*	\$2,415,000
Post-Doctoral Fellowship	8 + 2*	\$1,040,000
Total	<u>22</u>	<u>\$6,052,901</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.

Meeting adjourned at 3:21 p.m.