

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, March 7, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members:

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

Staff:

Stephen Auvil, TEDCO
Amritha Jaishankar, MSCRF/TEDCO
Mindy Lehman, TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF/TEDCO
Troy Stovall, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the January 10, 2022 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed (9 approved, 1 abstention).

II. Executive Director Report

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

A. Scientific Peer Review Meeting (FY '22 2nd Funding Cycle)

The FY'22 RFAs for all 6 funding programs (Launch, Validation, Discovery, Commercialization, Clinical, and Fellowship) were released. The application deadline was January 13, 2022. The Scientific Peer Review Committee will be held virtually in March 2022. The Commission will meet in May 2022 to review the Committee's recommendations for funding.

B. MSCRF Application/Customer Service Survey Poll-

A customer survey poll was conducted during the application submission process. The poll responses were very positive (*73%-Very Satisfied; 27% Satisfied*).

C. Awardee Updates

We are continuously engaged with our current awardees through individual meetings and various cohorts regarding research activities, milestone progress, budgets, and project timelines.

D. Social Media Outreach

We are continuously building visibility through social media and other outreach efforts. Please feel free to subscribe/follow us ([LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#))

III. 2022 Legislative Session - Update

Dr. Jaishankar and Commissioner Schwartz provided a brief overview of patient and awardee testimonies given during the House and Senate budget hearings, which were very well received. Ms. Mindy Lehman and Mr. Troy Stovall followed with a brief overview of the State budget cycle and legislative process. Dr. Jaishankar will continue to keep the Commission informed on new details regarding the MSCRF annual budget and any relevant bills before the Senate and House Subcommittees.

IV. DEI Discussion

Mr. Stovall opened by providing an overview of TEDCO's DEI standards to ensure alignment with the current programs and operations. Dr. Jaishankar presented the "Unconscious Bias" training required for all participating peer reviewers. This training will help ensure that MSCRF applications continue to receive objective and fair reviews free from inappropriate influences, MSCRF is raising reviewers' awareness of unconscious bias during peer review.

V. 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:

General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(i): 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 implementation of professional development policies for, and addressing leave-related requests by, MSCRF personnel.

REASON FOR CLOSING: The Commission believes that confidentiality is necessary to enable a candid discussion, which may include matters pertaining to the performance of the aforementioned personnel.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 2:45 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.