

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**  
Monday, April 25, 2022  
Virtual Meeting

---

**Members:**

Scott Bailey  
Rachel Brewster  
Diane Hoffmann, Vice Chair  
Debra Mathews, Chair  
David Mosser  
Barbara Nsiah  
Linda Powers  
Avram Reisner  
Ira Schwartz

**Staff:**

Ben Antebi, MSCRF  
Amritha Jaishankar, MSCRF  
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF

The Commission meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m.

**I. Welcome & Intro of New MSCRF Team Member (Dr. Ben Antebi)**

Dr. Jaishankar welcomed and introduced Dr. Ben Antebi as the Assistant Director, MSCRF. Dr. Antebi, introduced himself, presenting a summary of his background, and was welcomed by the Commission to the MSCRF team.

**II. Budget Increase Implications (\$20.5M) and Plans**

Dr. Jaishankar presented a brief summary of MSCRF's FY 2023 appropriations, and discussion ensued on the implications of the welcome increase in funding.

**III. FY23 RFA Changes**

The Commission thoroughly reviewed and discussed the existing RFA funding levels for all programs to implement potential changes for FY'23 funding cycles. The following motions were made, seconded, and approved:

- Clinical RFA (FY'23):  
A motion was made and seconded to increase the maximum available award under the Clinical program from \$650,000 to \$1,000,000. The motion passed unanimously. There was a consensus to reevaluate the budget following the first funding cycle.
- Commercialization RFA (FY'23):  
A motion was made and seconded to increase the maximum available award under the Commercialization Program from \$270,000 to \$400,000 and to streamline the application process. The motion passed unanimously.

- Launch & Discovery RFAs (FY'23):  
A motion was made and seconded to increase the maximum available award under both the Discovery and Launch Programs from \$345,000 to \$350,000) and to include the Launch Program in both FY 2023 RFA rounds. The motion passed unanimously.
- Validation & Post-Doctoral Fellowship RFAs (FY'23):  
The Commission reached a consensus not to make any program changes and to retain the existing funding levels.

Pursuant to the Commission approval, the new RFAs will be posted and accessible online through the MSCRF website.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.