

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, November 1, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Members:

Scott Bailey
Rachel Brewster
Diane Hoffmann, Vice Chair
Haig Kazazian
Debra Mathews, Chair
David Mosser
Barbara Nsiah
Avram Reisner
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell

Staff:

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

Guest:

Holy Huntley, LMD

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 13, 2021 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Director Report

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

A. Operational Updates

MSCRF/TEDCO is fully operational, working remotely, and working out of the office as needed. Most meetings will continue to be held virtually or via teleconference until further notice.

We are continuously engaged with our current awardees through individual meetings and various cohorts regarding research activities, milestone progress, budgets, and project timelines. Additionally, we have been working with potential applicants for the next round of funding.

Dr. Jaishankar is currently looking for potential candidates to fill the MSCRF Program Manager position, recommendations are welcome.

B. FY 2022 RFAs (2nd Funding Cycle)

The RFAs for the 2nd Funding cycle for all 6 programs were released. The application deadline is January 13, 2022. The Scientific Review Committee will review the applications in March 2022 and the Commission Review meeting will be held in May 2022.

C. Reporting Updates

We are working on the MSCRF economic impact report and MSCRF annual report, which is due by the end of December 2021.

D. Other

Dr. Jaishankar emphasized the importance of collaborations to move the stem cell/regenerative medicine field forward. Over the past 6 months, she has met with many major international stem cell /cell therapy organizations and has established collaborative opportunities to increase visibility for the Fund/MSCRF awardees.

III. TEDCO's Budget and Accounting - Update

During the July 2021 Commission meeting, the Commission raised questions and concerns regarding the indirect costs charged to the MSCRF annual budget. Mr. Stovall revisited the discussion and indicated that TEDCO Management is currently reengineering the IT and accounting systems for effective internal/external reporting. Mr. Stovall presented a recommendation to address and resolve the allocation issues. The MSCRF Budget Committee will meet to discuss the proposal and will develop a recommendation for full Commission review and feedback.

IV. TEDCO Strategic Briefing

Mr. Stovall and Ms. Holly Hunter presented TEDCO's 5 Year Strategic Plan-DRAFT for Commission review and feedback. During the discussion, the Commission provided further insight and emphasized interests of focus. Mr. Stovall will continue to work on the plan and will present the final draft to the TEDCO Board January 2022 for review and approval.

V. Government Relations - Update

Mr. Stovall introduced Mindy Lehman as the new Chief Government Relations & Policy Officer, TEDCO. Mr. Stovall indicated that TEDCO is working with Dept. of Budget and Management (DBM) to draft up a budget for FY'23. He also provided a brief overview of strategic objectives, and shared current challenges/ progress in preparation for the upcoming 2022 legislative session. Ms. Lehman and Mr. Stovall will work with Dr. Jaishankar to keep her, and the Commission informed on any new details regarding the MSCRF annual budget and/or relevant bills during the current budget and legislative cycle.

VI. 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 §3-103(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 administrative process by which the Commission oversees its budget.

REASONS FOR CLOSING:

The Commission believes that a thorough consideration of its budget and the accounting procedures utilized by TEDCO to inform the Commission's budgetary decisions may require candid discussion of both the budget itself and the accounting data provided to the Commission.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 2:59 p.m.

Following discussion of outstanding budgetary matters, a motion was made and seconded to authorize the Commission Chair to settle the ongoing issue regarding administrative costs imposed on MSCRF by TEDCO on specified terms. The Motion passed on a 9-1 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.