

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**  
Wednesday, September 13, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

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**Members:**

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

**Staff:**

Amritha Jaishankar, MSCRF/TEDCO  
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF/TEDCO  
Troy Stovall, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

**I. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the July 12, 2021 and August 23, 2021 meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve both sets of meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Nominations and Officer Election**

Dr. Jaishankar presented the officer nominations: Commissioner Debra Mathews – Chair (1 yr. term) and Commissioner Diane Hoffmann – Vice Chair. Both nominees expressed their willingness to serve.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 1-year extension of Debra Mathews term as Chair, and to approve the nomination for Diane Hoffmann as Vice Chair. 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**

General Provisions Article Sec.3-103(a)(1)(i):

This subtitle does not apply to ... a public body when it is carrying out ... an administrative function.

General Provisions Article Sec.3-305(b)(5):

A public body may meet in closed session ... to consider the investment of public funds.

General Provisions Article Sec. 3-305(b)(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. The discussion will also concern the administrative process by which MSCRF award documents are executed.

**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 Commission also believes that the possible delegation of authority to execute MSCRF documents may require candid discussion of to whom to delegate such authority.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 2:18 p.m.

In the closed session, the Commission reviewed the scientific peer review ranking of, and key information about, the applications recommended for funding within three of the current categories of grant funding (Clinical, Validation, and Commercialization Applications). All applicant 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.

<b><u>RFA Type</u></b>	<b><u>Recommended Awards</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
Clinical	2	\$1,065,280
Validation	1	\$230,000
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>3</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,295,280</u></b>

**Signature Authority Delegation (MSCRF Award Agreements)**

In closed session, the Commission discussed signature authority for all MSCRF awards moving forward. A motion was made and seconded to delegate signature authority for all MSCRF award agreements and related documents to the MSCRF Executive Director, effective immediately, at the request of TEDCO's Troy LeMaile-Stovall who no longer wished to perform this function. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.