

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, July 11, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members:

Mary Armanios
Scott Bailey
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Diane Hoffmann, Vice Chair
Debra Mathews, Chair
David Mosser
Barbara Nsiah
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell

Staff:

Ben Antebi, MSCRF
Stephen Auvil, TEDCO
Amritha Jaishankar, MSCRF
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF
Troy Stovall, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

The Commission welcomed and introduced new Commission Member, Dr. Mary Armanios, Professor of Oncology and Genetic Medicine; Director, Telomere Center at Johns Hopkins; Associate Director for Education and Training, Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Armanios has been appointed by Johns Hopkins University to fill one of its scientist seats on the Commission. Dr. Armanios expressed her willingness to serve as a Commission Member.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed meeting minutes from the May 2, 2022, Commission 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. Awardee Updates

All FY'22 award agreements have been fully executed. We are continuously engaged with our current awardees through individual meetings and various cohorts regarding research activities, milestone progress, budgets, and project timelines.

B. Scientific Peer Review Meeting (FY '23 1st Funding Cycle)

The FY'23 RFAs for 4 funding programs (Launch, Validation, Commercialization, Clinical) were released. The application deadline is July 14, 2022.

The Scientific Peer Review Committee will meet in August, 2022 and the Commission will meet Sept. 2022 to review the Committee's recommendations for funding.

C. Conference Updates

Dr. Jaishankar indicated her participation at the ISSCR Annual Hybrid conference (held June 15-19, 2022) on behalf of the Fund and the Commission.

III. Bylaws Discussion

Dr. Mathews and Mr. Schwartz indicated the current Bylaws hasn't been updated in many years. A revised Bylaws draft (with tracked changes) was circulated to the Commission for review and feedback. The Commission discussed various aspects of the draft and reached a consensus to modify the Bylaws to include a provision for Commissioner resignation. Mr. Schwartz will refine the language and will revisit the discussion at a future Commission meeting.

IV. Election of Commission Chair & Vice Chair

Dr. Jaishankar announced the nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Diane Hoffmann was nominated to serve as Chair for a two-year term. A motion was made and seconded to elect Ms. Hoffmann as nominated. The motion passed (10 aye – 1 abstention).

A nomination was made to elect both Dr. Rachel Brewster & Dr. Scott Bailey to serves as Co-Vice Chairs for a two-year term. A motion was made and seconded to elect both officers as nominated. The motion passed (10 aye – 1 abstention).

IV. 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:

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 performance of the Commission's role in overseeing the operation of the MSCRF, and the duty to oversee the use of budgeted MSCRF funds for various administrative purposes, including but not limited to marketing and business development functions and other costs charged to the Commission for administering the MSCRF.

REASON FOR CLOSING:

The Commission believes that confidentiality is essential to enable candid discussion of the process by which it oversees the uses of the aforementioned MSCRF funds.

General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(1):

A public body may adjourn an open session to discuss personnel matters that affect 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 candid discussion, which may include matters pertaining to the performance of the aforementioned personnel.”

The Motion was unanimously approved, and the Commission went into closed session at 2:40 pm. During the closed session the Commission:

(a) Discussed the Annual Performance Review conducted by Dr. Jaishankar for one of its staff and, based on that review, a motion was made and seconded to grant the said staffer an increase in compensation effective July 1, 2022. The motion was unanimously approved; and

(b) Discussed the possibility of using a portion of its FY '23 appropriation to support the development of manufacturing facilities, and if so, how it might make and implement such a decision. A motion was made and seconded to form a Committee of the Commission to study these issues. The motion was unanimously approved, and Commissioners Armanios, Mosser and Powers agreed to serve on the Committee. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.