

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Tuesday, September 27, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members:

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

Staff:

Amritha Jaishankar, MSCRF Executive Director

The Commission meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the September 7, 2022 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

II. 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: (i) 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, especially indirect costs incurred for various administrative purposes; (ii) the reactivation of the Commission's Hiring & Compensation Committee; (iii) the administration of MSCRF marketing and communications efforts for the coming quarter, and (iv) operational/transitional plans.

REASONS FOR CLOSING:

The Commission believes that the aforementioned administrative matters do not fall within the scope of coverage of the Open Meetings Act.

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 leave-related requests by, and the contractual employment of, an MSCRF staffer.

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 staffer.

General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(7):

A public body may adjourn an open session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(13):

A public body may adjourn an open session to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosure about a particular proceeding or matter”, e.g. attorney-client privilege.

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:

The discussion will involve obtaining the legal advice of its General Counsel on the permissibility of funding certain types of cell therapy.

REASON FOR CLOSING:

The Commission believes that confidentiality is necessary to obtain candid advice of counsel and preserve attorney-client privilege in the discussion of the legal permissibility of funding certain types of cell therapy.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 3:45 p.m.

In the closed session, the Commission: (i) discussed the propriety of funding awards for certain types of cell therapy; (ii) accepted, with great regret, the resignation of Executive Director Amritha Jaishankar, Ph.D., effective 10/10/22, and related personnel matters; (iii) determined to reactivate its Hiring & Compensation Committee to facilitate the recruitment of a new Executive Director; (iv) discussed administrative issues around payment of indirect costs incurred for various administrative purposes, MSCRF marketing and communications efforts for the coming quarter, and related operational plans, all in anticipation of Dr. Jaishankar’s departure; and (v) delegated to its Chair the authority to negotiate and agree upon transition plans and deliverables with Dr. Jaishankar to assist the Commission in various matters post-resignation.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.