

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, January 9, 2023
Virtual Meeting

Members:

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

Staff:

Ben Antebi, MSCRF
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF
Renee Winsky, TEDCO/MII Chair

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

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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

II. Maryland Innovation Initiative (MII) Chair Report

Ms. Renee Winsky presented an overview of the MII program, which included the life science & legislative history, the program structure, and current funding mechanisms. Ms. Winsky highlighted some of MII's program metrics and economic impact, as well as shared some of their current initiatives to expand the MII model to Federal and Life Science Tech partners.

III. Assistant Director Report

Dr. Ben Antebi presented the Assistant Executive Director's Report, which focused on the following:

A. 2022 Annual Report

The 2022 Annual Report is complete and a digital copy is available for download on the MSCRF website ([2022 MSCRF Annual Report](#)).

B. FY 2023 RFAs (2nd Funding Cycle)

The application deadline for all 7 MSCRF programs is January 19, 2023. The Scientific Review Committee will review the applications in March 2023 and the Commission Review meeting will be held in May 2023.

C. Operational Updates

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.

D. MSCRF Program Metrics

Dr. Antebi highlighted some metrics related to the overall program. These included metrics since the inception of the program as well as since the introduction of the Accelerating Cures initiative in 2017.

IV. MSCRF Executive Director Search - Update

Ms. Diane Hoffmann indicated that the job announcement for the MSCRF Executive Director position has been released. The Commission's Hiring & Compensation Committee has received a number of applications (*with several more in the pipeline*) and is currenting scheduling and conducting interviews with the top candidates. The Committee will keep the Commission updated on the progress.

V. 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
State Government Article §10-503(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 procedures to be followed in the further review and interview of candidates for the MSCRF Executive Director vacancy.

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 a review of the qualifications of MSCRF Executive Director candidates whose applications have been received thus far, one of whom is a current MSCRF staffer.

REASON FOR CLOSING:

The Commission believes that confidentiality is necessary to enable a candid discussion, which will include the relative qualifications of the aforementioned candidates.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 2:40 p.m.

In closed session, the Commission discussed various administrative procedures to be followed for reviewing the qualifications of, and interviewing, the candidates for the vacant Executive Director position.

The meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.