

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**

Wednesday, August 06, 2025
(Virtual Meeting)

Members:

Scott Bailey, Vice Chair
Rachel Brewster, Chair
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Christopher Dreisbach
Mamta Gautam-Basak
David Moser
Barbara Nsiah
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell

Staff:

Ben Antebi, MSCRF
Ruchika Nijhara, MSCRF
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF

The Commission meeting was called to order at 12:03 p.m.

I. 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 §3-108(a)(5):

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

General Provisions Article §3-108(a)(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 fund, given the scientific rankings and other relevant factors. The discussion will likely also relate to the characteristics of specific applications.

REASONS FOR CLOSING:

Paralleling the NIH process for considering funding of grant applications (as contemplated by its enabling legislation), 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 limited resources.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 12:10 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 12:54 p.m.

MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION

STATEMENT FOR CLOSING A MEETING

Location: virtual meeting via zoom

Date: August 6, 2025

Time: 12 pm

Motion By: Linda Powers

Seconded By: David Mosser

Vote to Close Session:

	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Armanios	☐	☐	☐	☒
Bailey	☒	☐	☐	☐
Dreisbach	☒	☐	☐	☐
Gautam-Basak	☒	☐	☐	☐
Brewster	☒	☐	☐	☐
Himelfarb	☒	☐	☐	☐
Hoffmann	☐	☐	☐	☒
Mosser	☒	☐	☐	☐
Nsiah	☒	☐	☐	☐
Powers	☒	☐	☐	☐
Reisner	☒	☐	☐	☐
Schwartz	☒	☐	☐	☐
Van Tassell	☒	☐	☐	☐

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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 a review of operational and related considerations impacting the administration of the MSCRF.

REASONS FOR CLOSING:

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

Rachel Brewster

Rachel Brewster, Ph.D.

MSCRC Chair