

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, March 1, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Members:

Scott Bailey
Rachel Brewster
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Diane Hoffman
Debra Mathews, Chair
David Mosser
Avram Reisner
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell, Vice Chair
Bowen Weisheit

Staff:

Stephen Auvil, TEDCO
Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Amritha Jaishankar, TEDCO
Terry Rauh, TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, TEDCO
Jody Sprinkle, TEDCO
Troy Stovall, TEDCO

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

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the January 4, 2021 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as modified. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Commission Chair Report

Dr. Debra Mathews indicated that she met with TEDCO management to discuss the idea of forming a non-voting Legislative-Affairs Collaborative (comprised of the 1-2 members from each governing body within TEDCO) to have informative discussions, share and discuss political interests/legislative needs, and to strategize on the best approach to integrate resources/services to support each participating entity. During a brief discussion, the Commission expressed their support of the initiative.

III. Executive Director Report

Dr. Amritha Jaishankar presented the Executive Director's Report, which focused on the following:

A. Operational Updates

MSCRF is fully operational, and staff is working remotely. All in-person meetings will continue to be held virtually or via teleconference.

B. Awardee Updates

We are continuously engaged with our current awardees through individual meetings and various cohorts regarding research activities, milestone progress, budgets, and project timelines.

Over the past year, we have expanded our industry engagement and created opportunities for our researchers to expand scientific collaborations. Many of our awardees were alongside us during these efforts.

Dr. Jaishankar highlighted the activities of several MSCRF portfolio companies that have, developed partnerships and raised funds to advance stem cell treatments, and cures (local and globally) since January 2021.

C. Scientific Peer Review Meeting (FY '21 2nd Funding Cycle)

The virtual Scientific Peer Review meetings for FY'21 2nd funding cycle are scheduled for March 22 - 25, 2021. The Commission will meet in May 2021 to review the Committee's recommendations for funding.

D. BioBuzz Interview

Dr. Jaishankar was invited to participate in a brief interview with BioBuzz, promoting the MSCRF and highlighted our mission, funding opportunities and program goals.

IV. 2021 Legislative Session

Ms. Jody Sprinkle indicated the MD General Assembly is halfway through the 2021 Legislative Session. The FY'22 budget is currently under consideration. The budget introduced to the General Assembly includes a \$1M reduction to the MSCRF program. Ms. Sprinkle will keep Dr. Gincel, and the Commission informed on new details regarding the MSCRF annual budget and any relevant bills before the Senate and House Subcommittees.

V. Restructuring TEDCO's Budget and the Timeline

Mr. Troy Stovall and the TEDCO Executive Leadership Team are working to restructure TEDCO's accounting system. RSM, a financial advisory firm, is to conduct a thorough review of TEDCO's IT and accounting processes/procedures, including indirect costs allocations. The findings from the report should be available in a few months and will be shared with the Commission.

In the meantime, Dr. Gincel will continue to provide quarterly financial reports to the Finance Committee and Commission for review. Dr. Gincel will work with RSM as needed to incorporate the Commission's feedback during the restructure process.

VI. Diversity and Inclusion Discussion

Mr. Stovall indicated that he met with members from the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland to discuss their overall perception /awareness of TEDCO and its resources within the African American community. After sharing some feedback with the Commission, Mr. Stovall emphasized the importance for the Commission to develop a legislative strategy to highlight our progress towards funding projects that target specific diseases that disproportionately affect underserved minority communities. Through discussion, the Commission brainstormed a list of ideas and expressed great interest in continuously working to improve diversity and inclusion within the scientific grant process. Additionally, the Commission discussed a number of direct and indirect barriers that affects their ability to target specific demographics. Over the next several months, the Commission will

revisit this discussion and will synthesize the top ideas to help develop an implementation plan for this initiative.

VII. 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 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.

State Government Article §10-508(a)(1)(ii): A public body may adjourn an open session to discuss "any . . . personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals".

TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED: The discussion will include the job duties and title of one or more individuals in helping the Commission carry out its duties as regards the MSCRF.

REASON FOR CLOSING: The Commission believes that confidentiality may be beneficial to a candid discussion of the job duties and title of the aforementioned individual(s).

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 3:25p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.