APPROVED July 11, 2022

MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION

Monday, May 2, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Members:
Scott Bailey
Rachel Brewster
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Diane Hoffmann, Vice Chair
Debra Mathews, Chair
Barbara Nsiah
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell

Staff:
Ben Antebi, MSCRF
Amritha Jaishankar, MSCRF
Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF

The Commission meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

The Commission reviewed the meeting minutes from the March 7, 2022, March 25, 2022, and April 25, 2022 Commission meetings. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed (9-in favor, 1-abstention).

III. Statement for Closing the Meeting

A motion was made and seconded that the Commission go into closed session. The motion stated the following:

<u>STATUTORY AUTHORITY TO CLOSE SESSION</u>

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.

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.

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 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.

Time permitting, the discussion will also concern the performance and compensation of one or more specific individuals employed by the Commission to staff the MSCRF.

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 Commission believes that confidentiality is necessary to enable candid discussion of staffing matters, which will include issues pertaining to the performance of some of its individual personnel.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 9:22 a.m.

In the closed session, the Commission reviewed the scientific peer review ranking of, and key information about, the applications recommended for funding in five of the current categories of grant funding (Clinical, Launch, Discovery, Commercialization, and Post-Doctoral Fellowship Applications). All applicant names and affiliated institutions had been redacted. The Commission focused on applications that received competitive, meritorious scientific scores, giving priority to applications that included collaborations, regenerative medicine, translational research, and underfunded areas of research.

RFA Type	Recommended Awards	Total
Clinical	1	$650,000
Launch	4	$1,380,000
Discovery	10 + 5*	$3,447,909
Post-Doctoral Fellowship	6 + 1*	$780,000
Commercialization	3	$809,500
Total	**24**	**$7,067,409**

*Additional applications that are recommended in the event that an award is declined. These applicants will not be notified of their "waiting list" status.

At 2:55 pm the Staff was excused, and the Commission took a brief break, reconvening at 3:15 pm, whereupon a discussion ensued concerning the performance and compensation of two individuals who staff the MSCRF. A Motion was made, seconded and approved to adjust the compensation of one such employee. In the interest of time, a decision on a compensation adjustment for the other was deferred to the following meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.