

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

Monday, January 23, 2012
UMB Bio Park, 2:00 PM

Action Items

- 1. A motion was unanimously passed to modify the terms of the match funding language in the draft Pre-clinical and Clinical RFA to require the applicant to justify the use of pre-existing equipment by reporting the cost and date of acquisition and percentage of use.**
 - 2. A motion was unanimously passed to include the words "if applicable" in the draft RFA language regarding TPP guidelines.**
 - 3. A motion was unanimously passed to approve the draft of the new Pre-clinical and Clinical RFA with the agreed upon modifications and to release it promptly.**
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Members in attendance:

Norma Andrews
Brenda Crabbs
Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair
Marye Kellermann
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Noel Rose
Karen Rothenberg
Ira Schwartz
Jeremy Sugarman
Curt Van Tassell
Bowen Weisheit

Others in Attendance:

Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Rob Rosenbaum, TEDCO
Sabrina Barksdale, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:04pm

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the September 27, 2011 meeting.

II. Management Report

Dan Gincel presented the Administrative Report, focusing on the following items:

A. Application Submission Update

The Commission received 179 grant applications for FY 2012. A press release was issued which includes the breakdown by category (31 Investigator Initiated, 105 Exploratory, and 44 Post-doctoral Fellowship).

B. Annual Report

The 2011 Annual Report has been submitted to The Department of Legislative Services Library and Information Services Division, and will be available online at www.mscref.org.

C. Attendance Requirements

The Governor's Appointments Office requests an annual attendance roster for Governor appointed Commission members. As a reminder, Maryland law requires Governor appointed Commission members to be present for at least 50% of the meetings. Any Governor appointed Commission member who fails to meet that obligation must submit either a letter of resignation or a waiver request to the Governor's office.

D. Scientific Review Sessions

The Scientific Peer Review meetings have been scheduled for March 18th - March 22nd. Over 90% of the reviewers have been identified and assigned applications. Approximately 80% of the reviewers are repeating participants. This year the review sessions will be held at the Hilton BWI Hotel.

E. 2011 Annual Symposium Recap

The 2011 Annual Maryland Stem Cell Symposium was held on October 6, 2011 at Towson University in Towson, MD. The Speaker and Awardee reception was held on October 5, 2011 at Stevenson University. The Symposium was a huge success that attracted close to 400 registrants. Feedback on the agenda was positive. However, researchers requested the inclusion of more scientific presentations.

F. 2012 Annual Symposium Update

The 2012 Annual Maryland Stem Cell Symposium will be held in Anne Arundel County. Requests for venue proposals were solicited by the Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference & Visitors Bureau. Proposals from prospective venues are currently being reviewed. The program structure is in development.

G. Future Meeting Update

The next Commission meeting will be held at the TEDCO Office on Monday, May 7, 2012 from 9:30am to 7pm. During this meeting the Commission will review the applications recommended for funding by the Scientific Peer Review Committees.

III. 2012 General Assembly Session

The 2012 General Assembly Session has begun. The budget hearing is scheduled for February 16, 2012 before the House Subcommittee, and February 20, 2012 before the Senate Subcommittee. TEDCO will be called to testify on the MSCRF annual budget and for bills related to Commission matters. All Commission members are encouraged to attend. Letters of recommendation and support are always welcome. Dan Gincel will provide ongoing electronic updates about key issues.

IV. Discussion and Approval of the New Pre-clinical and Clinical RFA

Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair, thanked Commission members Linda Powers, Avram Reisner, Ira Schwartz, Curt Van Tassell, and Bowen Weisheit, who participated with her on the New RFA Subcommittee. This Subcommittee was charged with creating a new RFA targeting biotech companies interested in doing pre-clinical and clinical research in Maryland. The Subcommittee met several times and discussed at length the concept of a reimbursable grant vs. a matching grant, concluding that a matching grant best fit the mission of the Fund and the goals of this new program.

The Subcommittee presented its draft for the Commission to review and discuss. The Commission questioned if the use of pre-existing equipment should qualify for matched funding. Several recommendations were considered:

- To accept the match terms as presented in the draft for a one-year trial period
- To request additional data from the applicant about pre-existing equipment
- To adopt the NIH guidelines for pre-existing and new equipment

A motion was made and seconded to modify the terms of the match funding language to require applicants to justify the use of pre-existing equipment by reporting the cost and date of acquisition, and the percentage of use. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed several suggested language modifications throughout the draft.

A motion was made and seconded to include the words “if applicable” in the language regarding TPP guidelines. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the RFA draft with the agreed upon modifications. The motion passed unanimously.

Margaret Conn Himelfarb and Dan Gincel were charged with swiftly editing the draft to include the approved modifications and releasing the new RFA without further approval of the full Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.