

Minutes of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission

Wednesday, November 18, 2008
UMB BioPark, Baltimore, MD

Action Items from November 18, 2008

1. **Prepare and distribute draft meeting minutes within one week following a Commission meeting (Dan Gincel).**
 2. **Request For Information for Shared Resource Facilities to be distributed at December 3, 2008 Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium (Dan Gincel).**
 3. **Prepare and circulate to the Commission draft document for strategic discussion of overarching policy questions (Dan Gincel).**
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Members in attendance:

Brenda Crabbs, Vice Chair
Diane Griffin
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Linda Powers
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg
Karen Rothenberg, Chair
Steven Salzberg
Ira Schwartz
Jeremy Sugarman
Bowen Weisheit
Joel Zaiman

Others in attendance:

Dan Gincel (TEDCO)
Renee Winsky (TEDCO)

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission considered the minutes of September 10, 2008. A typo was noted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the correction. The motion passed unanimously (Dr. Sugarman had not yet joined the meeting).

II. Administrative Report

Dr. Gincel provided an update on administrative activities. He reported that the Genetics Policy Institute (GPI) is considering Maryland for their 2009 World Stem Cell Summit, The event held in Madison, Wisconsin in September 2008 drew over 860 attendees. Ms. Powers added that in her position on the GPI Board, they are considering September 21-23, 2009 in Baltimore.

The December 3, 2008 Maryland Stem Cell Symposium will include remarks from Governor O'Malley, House of Delegates Speaker Busch, other VIPs and paid registrants. VIPs are being handled through TEDCO; the Tech Council of Maryland is providing registration services for paid attendees.

There is a reception on December 2, 2008 at the Maryland Science Center for invited guests, including Commission members, TEDCO Board and Greater Baltimore Committee Board members. All Principal Investigator and symposium keynote speakers are also invited. GBC is sponsoring the reception.

Letters of Intent for the FY2009 MSCRF RFAs were due Friday, November 14, 2008; 187 were received. This is 60 more than the number of applications received for the FY2007 Fund. The Investigator-Initiated RFA received 55 letters this year and 33 last year; Exploratory RFA received 82 this year and 64 last year; the Post-Doctoral Fellowship RFA received 50 this year and 24 last year. The increase in the number of letters will require additional scientific peer reviewers.

III. Shared Resource Facilities Request For Information (RFI)

Some Commission members expressed disappointment that an RFI was not distributed with the RFAs in October as had been previously discussed. Staff stated that as no RFI document had been approved by the Commission, there was no consensus on this issue. Commissioners called for improved follow up from staff with increased communication and requested that minutes be received within one week of a Commission meeting versus one week prior to the next Commission meeting, with action items clearly articulated in the document along with responsible parties listed. Staff will comply with this request.

A draft RFI was distributed. The Commission considered and discussed the document. Members offered additional items for consideration to the RFI. It was determined that staff would collect ideas from members and circulate the revised RFI to the Commission by Friday, November 21, 2008. The Commission will review and have until December 1, 2008 to make suggested changes. The RFI will be announced and distributed at the Symposium on December 3, 2008.

IV. Maryland Science Center Presentation

Representatives from the Maryland Science Center presented an overview of the upcoming exhibit "Cells: The Universe Inside Us." December 2 reception attendees will get a sneak peak of the new exhibit that will open in March 2009.

V. Strategic Planning Discussion

Dr. Gincel presented an outline of an extensive strategic planning process. The Commission discussed various scenarios of strategic planning they might entertain. There was consensus that an extensive process would not be necessary, but that there were certain overarching policy questions that the Commission should deliberate in order to prepare for changes anticipated with the new federal Administration and 2009 General Assembly Session. All agreed that this would be a constructive exercise. Staff will prepare a detailed list of questions expressed by the Commission as part of the meeting's discussion and circulate a document for the Commission's consideration shortly following the December 3 symposium.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.