

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

Wednesday, February 18, 2015  
University of Maryland Bio Park  
Baltimore, MD

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**Action Items from February 18, 2015**

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- 1. Due to FY15 budget cuts the Commission decided to cut an award from each program (but the pre-clinical/clinical) and on top to cut 5% from the budget of each approved award.**
  - 2. The Commission to evaluate the MSCRF programs.**
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**Members in attendance:**

Rachel Brewster  
Margaret Conn Himelfarb  
Kevin T. FitzGerald  
Diane Hoffmann  
Marye Kellermann  
Sharon Krag  
Debra Mathews  
David Mosser, Vice Chair  
Avram Reisner, Chair  
Noel Rose  
Ira Schwartz  
Curt Van Tassell  
Bo Weisheit

**Staff in Attendance:**

Dan Gincel, TEDCO

**The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.**

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Several of the Commission members did not have access to the minutes from the January 7, 2015 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes by email. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes were approved in the next few days by a majority of 9 members from the Commission.

**II. Chairman's Report**

Due to a personal matter the Commission Chair, Avram Reisner, was not able to attend the start of the meeting. The Chairman's report will be provided in the next meeting.

**III. Executive Director Report**

Dan Gincel presented the Administrative Report, which focused on the following items:

**A. Budget Hearings and legislators meetings**

TEDCO was called to testify on the MSCRF annual budget before the House Subcommittee on February 4, 2015, and before the Senate Subcommittee on February 5, 2015.

**B. Programs coordinator**

The Program coordinator is on maternity leave and TEDCO elected to not hire a part time person at this time. Other TEDCO employees will assist with running the program as needed.

**IV. Discussion regarding FY2015 Budget Cuts**

The budget for FY2015 was cut by \$1 million. The Commission discussed different options to address this cut. Some of the options included: reducing the number of total applications; reducing the award amounts by a pre-set percent of the total award; reducing the award amount in a gradient system in correlation to the scientific review score; getting recommendations for cuts from the scientific review committee or combinations of several of the methods. The Commission concluded that they would like to have recommendations from the scientific review committee per witch application a small budget cut will not affect the scientific merit of the proposal. The Commission also decided to cut one award per program, but the pre-clinical program, and to cut 5% of each award budget until making the full amount.

**V. Overview of the programs and initial discussion regarding FY2016 Budget Cuts**

The budget for FY2016 was level funded to the new FY2015 budget, which reflects a \$1 million cut or a \$9.4 million budget. The commission decided to evaluate the different programs and activities of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund. The Executive Director will hire an external intern to collect all the data and prepare recommendations for the full Commission to discuss in an open to the public meeting.

The sub-committee members are:

David Mosser, Chair

Margaret Conn Himelfarb

Sharon Krag

Debra Mathews

Bo Weisheit

The sub-committee will report to the full Commission no later than the October 2015 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.