

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION
Monday, May 4, 2015
TEDCO Offices, 9:00 AM**

No Action Items

Members in Attendance:

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

Participating Staff:

Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, TEDCO
Ann Pulley, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 9:05 am

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 Sec.10-503(a)(1)(i):

This subtitle does not apply to ... a public body when it is carrying out ... an administrative function.

State Government Article Sec.10-508(a)(5):

A public body may meet in closed session ... to consider the investment of public funds.

State Government Article Sec.10-508(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.

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 recommend for funding, given the scientific rankings and other relevant factors. The discussion might also relate to the characteristics of specific applications.

REASON FOR CLOSING:

Paralleling the NIH process for considering funding applications, 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 its limited resources.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session at 9:45 am.

In the closed session, the Commission reviewed the scientific peer review ranking of, and key information about, the applications recommended for funding within the four current categories of grant funding (Investigator-Initiated, Exploratory, Post-Doctoral Fellowship, and Pre-clinical Applications). All applicants' 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.

The Commission recommended applications from each of these four funding categories for TEDCO Board approval.

<u>RFA Type</u>	<u>Recommended Awards</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pre-Clinical	1	\$475,000
Investigator-Initiated	8 + 2*	\$5,243,853
Exploratory	11 + 1*	\$2,384,737
Post-Doctoral Fellowships	<u>9 + 2*</u>	<u>\$990,000</u>
Total	29 + 5*	\$9,093,590

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.