MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION
Tuesday, September 27, 2011
TEDCO Offices, 1:30 PM

Action Items

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1. **A motion was made and seconded to approve the current funding amounts and term duration for each of the 3 grant programs. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission will circulate suggested language revisions via email for a final approval.**

Members in attendance:
Norma Andrews
Brenda Crabbs
Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair
Marye Kellermann
Sharon Krag
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Noel Rose
Karen Rothenberg
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell
Bowen Weisheit
Kevin Fitzgerald

Others in Attendance:
Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Rob Rosenbaum, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 1:30pm

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the July 18, 2011 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously**.**

II. Repeating RFAs

Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair, and Commission members Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg, Avram Reisner, Ira Schwartz, participated on the Repeating RFA Subcommittee with the objective of thoroughly reviewing and modifying, as needed, the existing Investigator Initiated, Exploratory, and Post-Doctoral Fellowship requests for grant applications for FY 2012.

The Subcommittee recommended retaining the current funding amounts and term durations for all three programs. The Commission then discussed several suggested minor language modifications. There was consensus to rewrite and circulate these minor revisions via email for final approval. Pursuant approval, the new RFAs will be posted and accessible online through the MSCRF Web site.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the current funding amounts and term durations for each of the three grant programs and consider the final language changes when they are circulated by email. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Collaboration with CIRM on Early Translational III Grants

The first year of the CIRM collaboration pilot program generated great interest among the scientific community. To date, four collaborative proposals were submitted of which two were funded. Dan Gincel recommended that the Commission consider extending this pilot program for another year to allow joint collaborations with CIRMs Early Translational III grant award recipients. The Commission agreed unanimously to extend the pilot program for a second year.

IV. Discussion of the New RFA

Dan Gincel opened the discussion by providing a brief overview of a new pilot program which would offer private biotech companies the opportunity to compete for loans in the form of reimbursable grants that would investigate stem cell therapies at a later stage than the typical applications we typically receive. A New RFA Subcommittee (comprised of Margaret Himelfarb, Linda Powers, Ira Schwartz, Curt Van Tassell, and Bowen Weisheit) has been charged with creating a new RFA for this pilot program. The new RFA Subcommittee presented the Commission with the concept of establishing an RFA requiring either a pre-clinical or clinical trial as a condition of the reimbursable grant.

A. Pre-Clinical Option
To fund the preclinical research required by the FDA to receive IND clearance.

B. Clinical Option
To fund a Phase 1 clinical research trial in Maryland that already has an FDA approved IND. Out of state applicants utilizing Maryland facilities for phase 1 clinical trial research will be eligible to apply for funding.

A small electronic survey, administered to MSCRF grant recipients and the scientific community, indicated:

- great interest in funding for pre-clinical and clinical grants
- interest in a two- year funding duration
- preferred maximum amount from $500k to $1milion
- majority acceptance of a reimbursable grant

The Commission members agreed that the proposed RFA would stimulate interest within the biotechnology community and promote job creation in Maryland. They discussed the survey analysis and provided suggestions regarding the potential budget, terms and conditions to incorporate into the RFA, emphasizing the need to foster translational research. As is the case with all of the MSCRF grant programs, each application will be evaluated on its scientific merit and the established review criteria. The Commission authorized the Subcommittee to move forward in developing the new RFA.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm.