

APPROVED September 10, 2008

Minutes of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission

Monday, July 7, 2008

University of Maryland Baltimore BioPark, Baltimore, MD

Members in attendance:

Joseph Capizzi
Brenda Crabbs
Diane Griffin
Margaret Himelfarb
John Kellerman
Linda Powers, Chair
Suzanne Rosenberg
Karen Rothenberg
Suzanne Rosenberg
Steven Salzberg
Ira Schwartz
Jeremy Sugarman
Bowen Weisheit
Joel Zaiman

Others in attendance:

Sabrina Barksdale (TEDCO)
Dan Gincel (TEDCO)
Renee Winsky (TEDCO)

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

Introduction of new Commission Member Ira Schwartz.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission considered the minutes of April 17, 2008. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Administrative Report

Dan Gincel provided an update on administrative activities. As a reminder, The First Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium will be held on December 3, 2008 at the Kossiakoff Center located at the JHU Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, Maryland. Governor Martin O'Malley will be present for this event. There will be two keynote speakers including Commission member Jeremy Sugarman. The scheduling logistics for this event will be available soon.

During the recent application review, members of Scientific Peer Review Committee suggested that TEDCO conduct a Stem Cell Funding Briefing. The briefing would provide essential information to help potential applicants create and submit stronger and improved applications. Based on the recommendation, two MSCRF Funding Opportunity Briefings will be held in July. The first meeting, sponsored by the Kennedy Krieger Institute located in Baltimore, Maryland, will be held on Friday, July 11, 2008. The second meeting, sponsored by Johns Hopkins University at Shady Grove, located in Montgomery County, Maryland will be held on Monday, July 14, 2008. These funding briefings feature four speakers. Dan Gincel will provide a brief tutorial of the MSCRF program RFA and the administrative process. Dr. Donna Vogel, a grant writing expert from Johns Hopkins University, will give a brief presentation on "*Grant Crafting*" and will provide good advice on how to write stronger grant applications. Mark Weiss, a stem cell expert and a member of the Scientific Peer Review Committee, will give a brief tutorial on the specific criteria used during the review session. Debra Mathews, a bioethics expert from Johns Hopkins, will give a presentation on ethical issues involving stem cell research.

The Interstate Alliance on Stem Cell Research (IASCR) will hold their a semi-annual meeting at the UMBI Center of Marine Biotechnology building in Baltimore, Maryland, which will be open to the public. TEDCO will help organize the meeting without contributing any funds.

The Maryland Science Center is planning an exhibit event on cell biology in which a portion of the exhibits will be on stem cells. The logistics on this event are currently in the development stages. MSCRF management will continue coordinating with the Science Center to find out how the Commission members can contribute to the exhibits.

The JDFR (Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation) would like to collaborate with the MSCRF in effort to extend its resources to researchers who are conducting stem cell research on juvenile diabetes. If there was a collaboration with a researcher in the state of Maryland and a researcher outside of Maryland, the MSCRF could fund the research performed in Maryland, as required by statute, while the private foundation could fund the out of state research with their own sources and enforcing their regulations.

The Commission discussed the advantages and disadvantages of this sort of collaborative research project. An advantage of collaboration would leverage the MSCRF while expanding collaborative research outside the State of Maryland using an auxiliary foundation. A disadvantage is that the collaborative effort could raise a question of fair distribution of funding for researchers in Maryland and pose challenges to Maryland's statutorily required procedures.

III. New and Repeating RFA's

There has been great interest within research community to establish shared resource facilities in Maryland to further stem cell research. The Commission believes that establishing shared facilities would encourage more collaborative projects amongst institutions within the state of Maryland and could possibly broaden the ability of institutions that currently do not perform human stem cell research to begin human stem cell research.

There was a suggestion to amend existing RFAs to indicate there will be a additional funds for a start-up if the applicant applying to the RFA hires new faculty at the institute or if a new PI in the company is recruited from another state. This will help the universities recruit researchers to the university.

There was a consensus amongst the Commission members to establish a separate RFA for translational / clinical trials. The logistics for the RFA will be established by the sub committee.

The three RFAs from FY2008 were discussed thoroughly and there was a consensus on establishing a sub-committee with several members of the MSCR Commission to make recommendations on all RFAs at the next Commission meeting.

IV. Other Issues

The National Academy of Science and the ISSCR recommends an IRB, ESCRO or SCRO reviews before any scientific project is awarded and performed. There was a consensus amongst the Commission regarding ESCRO / SCRO reviews. The Commission has decided to include in the RFA that research may require a review by a properly constituted ESCRO or SCRO. The Commission feels this may also stimulate other institutes to establish an ESCRO/ SCRO Review panel within their institutions.

V. Statement for Closing the Meeting

A motion was moved and seconded that the Commission go in to a 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.

REASON FOR CLOSING:

To open the floor for the nomination and election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session.

(MEETING CLOSED 4:10 p.m.)