

**Minutes of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission**

**Wednesday, September 10, 2008**

**UMBI Center of Marine Biotechnology, Baltimore, MD**

**Members in attendance:**

Joseph Capizzi  
Brenda Crabbs, Vice Chair  
Margaret Himelfarb  
John Kellermann  
Gloria Marrow  
Linda Powers  
Suzanne Rosenberg  
Karen Rothenberg, Chair  
Steven Salzberg  
Ira Schwartz  
Jeremy Sugarman  
Joel Zaiman

**Others in attendance:**

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

The Commission meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The Commission considered the minutes of July 7, 2008. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with an amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Administrative Report**

Dan Gincel provided an update on administrative activities. As a reminder, The Interstate Alliance on Stem Cell Research (IASCR) held their semi-annual meeting at the UMBI Center of Marine Biotechnology building in Baltimore, Maryland on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. The two day meeting covered a significant amount of informative material, in which the IASCR meeting minutes will reflect. A copy of the meeting minutes and presentations will be available on the IASCR website.

There were two MSCRF Funding Opportunity Briefings held in July 2008. The first meeting, sponsored by the Kennedy Krieger Institute located in Baltimore, Maryland, was held on Friday, July 11, 2008. The second meeting, sponsored by Johns Hopkins University at Shady Grove, located in Montgomery County, Maryland was held on Monday, July 14, 2008. The briefings were very successful, with an attendance of over 100 participants, including representatives from over 20 companies.

The World Stem Cell Summit (WSCS) meeting will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Madison, WI. There is a possibility Maryland may host the next WSCS meeting in 2009,

more information on what the Commission is expected to contribute, and the logistics will be presented to the Commission during the next meeting.

The Commission was given an update on the logistics for the First Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium, in which a final agenda will be ready by the end of October 2008.

### **III. Review, Discussion and Approval of Repeating Request For Application's (RFA)**

A RFA Subcommittee, which consisted of several members of the MSCR Commission, thoroughly reviewed and discussed all RFAs (i.e., Investigator-Initiated, Exploratory, and Post Doctoral Fellowship). Besides a date change, there were no suggestions for any changes for the Exploratory and the Post Doctoral Fellowship RFAs. However, there was a suggestion to change the level of funding and research duration for the Investigated-Initiated RFA. It was suggested that the funding level remain at \$1.5 million maximum per application, but to allow up to \$300,000 per year for a period up to 5 years replacing the existing policy of up to \$500,000 per year for a period up to 3 years.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Investigated-Initiated RFA as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Exploratory RFA. The motion was passed unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Post Doctoral Fellowship RFA. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. New RFA Discussion**

The Commission discussed the possible addition of several RFAs in the future within them are Undergrad Education and Graduate Research Dissertation Awards, those awards will be discussed during the strategic planning process (see section VII). The RFA Subcommittee also met to discuss the establishment of a new RFA for a Shared Resource Facilities Grant program. The Subcommittee needs additional information and, therefore, was unable to come to an agreement on an RFA. The Commission suggested developing and distributing a Request for Information (RFI) regarding the purpose, need and capacity for shared resource facilities in order to gather additional information, e.g., who would manage the facilities; how much is needed for capital investments; etc. TEDCO management and the Commission will collectively research and create a RFI template utilizing formats, possible procedures and protocols from the NIH, other states, and institutes who currently have a Shared Resource Facilities Grant program. The Commission suggested the RFAs and the RFI be distributed together within the next few weeks.

### **V. ISSCR Draft Guidelines for Clinical Translation**

The Commission heard a brief overview of the International Society for Stem cell Research (ISSCR) draft Guidelines, which lead the Commission into an informative discussion. The Commission acknowledged the material presented was for informational purposes only and does not require a formal reply or action.

### **VI. Future Meeting Schedule**

November 18, 2008 . (University of Maryland BioPark, Baltimore City), 2:30 p.m. . 5:00 p.m.  
February 17, 2009 . (University of Maryland BioPark, Baltimore City), 2:00 p.m. . 5:00 p.m.  
April 23, 2009 . (TEDCO Office, Columbia, MD), 11:00 a.m. . 5:00 p.m. **CLOSED MEETING**  
April 28, 2009 . (TEDCO Office, Columbia, MD), 2:00 p.m. . 6:00 p.m. **CLOSED MEETING**

## **VII. Other Issues**

The commission will discuss the development of a 10-year strategic plan and use the information and recommendations generated from the Governor's BIO 2020 Initiative, the Battelle study, and the Life Sciences Advisory Board as a launch point.

## **VIII. 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 §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 §10-508(a)(5):**

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

**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 consider, given the scientific rankings and other relevant factors. The discussion might also relate to the characteristics of specific applications.+

**REASON FOR CLOSING:** The Commission believes that confidentiality is essential to enable the most candid Commission discussion of how best to invest limited resources.+

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.