

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

Monday, July 18, 2011  
UMB BioPark

**Action Items**

---

1. The Commission created a temporary new Subcommittee charged with developing an RFA that would provide an opportunity for biotech companies in Maryland to compete for reimbursable grants. Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Linda Powers, Bowen Weisheit, Curt Van Tassell, Ira Schwartz, Rob Rosenbaum and Dan Gincel agreed to serve on this working committee. A teleconference date will be scheduled via email.
  2. The Commission recreated a temporary Subcommittee to review the existing RFAs. Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg, Avram Reisner, Ira Schwartz and Dan Gincel agreed to serve on this working committee, which will meet to discuss how these three RFAs might be improved. A teleconference date will be scheduled via email.
- 

**Members in attendance:**

Brenda Crabbs  
Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair  
Marye Kellermann  
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg  
Linda Powers  
Avram Reisner  
Noel Rose  
Karen Rothenberg  
Ira Schwartz  
Curt Van Tassell  
Bowen Weisheit

**TEDCO staff in attendance:**

Sabrina Barksdale  
Dan Gincel, Director  
Rob Rosenbaum

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the January 18, 2011 and May 2, 2011 meetings. There was request to amend the January 18 minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve both meeting minutes with the specified amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Commission Member Changes**

Steven Salzburg has recently joined the Johns Hopkins University faculty and, therefore, can no

longer represent the University System of Maryland as a Commission member. The selection of his replacement is in process.

### **III. Management Report**

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

#### **A. FY2011 Grant Awards**

The TEDCO Board approved the 36 awards recommended for funding by the Commission (9 Investigator Initiated, 13 Exploratory, and 14 Post-doctoral Fellowship grants). All FY2011 grant agreements have been signed and the funds have been committed. Prior to the disbursement of funds, each awardee must submit IRB, IACUC, and ISCRO or ESCRO approval/exemption letters. The disbursement of funds for each grant agreement will be executed once the required compliance documentation has been submitted.

#### **B. Fourth Annual 2011 MSCRF Symposium**

- The 4th Annual 2011 Stem Cell Symposium will be held October 6, 2011 at Towson University.
- The venue can accommodate up to 600 attendees. Attendance is expected to approach that number.
- A draft of the Agenda is currently in development. It will be available for Commission review and then posted on the MSCRF Web site for public viewing within the upcoming weeks.
- The printed programs for the symposium will be prepared by Towson University's Design Center.
- The registration and abstract submission Web site is now available to the public. The registration fee to attend the symposium is \$75. This fee will be waived for Commission members.
- Private funds were raised to underwrite a Speaker/Awardee Reception at Stevenson University on October 5, 2011, the night before the symposium.

#### **C. International Bio Meetings**

Dan Gincel reported that in June he attended the ISSCR Annual Conference (held in Toronto, Canada) and the International Biotechnology Annual Conference (held in Washington, D.C).

#### **D. Future Meetings Update**

Dan Gincel listed the future meetings and events he will attend representing the Fund and the Commission:

- CIRM Annual Grantee Meeting, September 14-16, San-Francisco, CA
- Clinical Business Expo - Cell Therapy Commercialization September 20-21, Boston, MA

### **III. Discussion of RFAs for FY2012**

The Commission agreed to create a pilot program that would offer private biotech companies the opportunity to compete for loans in the form of reimbursable grants. The Commission agreed to create a temporary new RFA Subcommittee to discuss the terms and conditions, and suggested that the discussion include:

- Encouraging more applications that involve biotech-academic collaborations.
- Considering hybrid loan/reimbursable grant opportunities
- Fostering translational research

Commission members Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Linda Powers, Bowen Weisheit, Curt Van Tassell and Ira Schwartz agreed to serve on this Subcommittee. Dan Gincel and Rob Rosenbaum also agreed to participate in the discussions.

The Commission also recreated a Subcommittee to discuss how the three existing RFAs might be improved. Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg, Avram Reisner, Ira Schwartz and Dan Gincel agreed to serve on this Subcommittee. The Commission recommended that this Subcommittee consider:

- Emphasizing in the Postdoctoral Fellowship application that either the mentor or the applicant should have experience in stem cell research, that the research environment is important, and that an institutional letter of support is mandatory
- Requiring in the Exploratory and Investigator Initiated grants that the applicant explain the nature of any collaboration(s) and any geographic distances will be handled. Also any training required at one institution may be required of all collaborators

Both Subcommittees will meet via teleconference and will report back to the Commission at the September 2011 meeting.

#### **IV. Program with Baltimore City Community College**

Dan Gincel met with the leadership at BCCC to discuss assisting their lab tech program graduates by introducing them to MSCRF awardees, who will attempt to help them find suitable jobs in the Baltimore area. This collaborative initiative, which does not require funding, will help keep these trained technicians working in Maryland.

#### **V. Future Commission Meeting Dates**

September 7, 2011 - 2 to 5 p.m. (UMB BioPark)

November 16, 2011 - 2 to 5 p.m. (*Contingency Date*)

January 23, 2012 - 2 to 5 p.m. (UMB BioPark)

May 7, 2012 - 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Grant Review, TEDCO Offices)

#### **VI. Closing the Meeting to the Public**

##### **Statement for Closing the Meeting**

A motion was made 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.

#### **TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

The discussion will concern the implementation of the Commission's previously adopted policies concerning the mechanical and administrative process by which it reviews applications for grants from the MSCRF.

#### **REASON FOR CLOSING:**

Paralleling the NIH process for considering funding applications (as is required of the Commission by statute), the Commission believes that confidentiality is essential to enable candid discussion of whether its current review procedures regarding, *inter alia*, what information from applications is necessary to a proper review and what sort of redaction is appropriate, best enable it to invest its limited resources.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.