

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

Tuesday, September 24, 2013

BWI Marriott Hotel

Linthicum Heights, MD

Action Items from September 24, 2013

- 1. Dan will continue to solicit sponsorships for the 6th Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium and to promote the event.**
 - 2. The final results of the Economic Impact Study will be shared with the Commission as it becomes available in December 2013. Dan will also brainstorm and share his recommendations for highlighting MSCRF funded publications.**
 - 3. The Commission reached a consensus not to publish the modified version of the "Stem Cell Fast Facts" document and to use it as an informative internal resource.**
 - 4. A motion was made and seconded to approve the RFA drafts with the language modifications. The motion passed unanimously.**
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Members in attendance:

Rachel Brewster

Margaret Conn Himelfarb

Kevin Fitzgerald

Diane Hoffmann

Marye Kellermann

Sharon Krag

Debra Mathews

Linda Powers

Avram Reisner, Chair

Noel Rose

Ira Schwartz

Bowen Weisheit

Staff in Attendance:

Dan Gincel, MSCRF

Sabrina Spinner, MSCRF

Robert Rosenbaum, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 10:21 a.m.

Avram Reisner welcomed and introduced new Commission Member Rachel Brewster who has been appointed by UMBC to fill Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg's seat on the Commission. Rachel is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences and specializes in certain areas of embryology, neural tube formation, and anoxia tolerance.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the July 18, 2013 meeting. There was a request to amend the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Chairman Report

Avram Reisner reported that the Tech Council of Maryland and MSCRF award recipients are writing letters to the Governor and elected officials to increase the MSCRF appropriations for FY2015. Commission Members are allowed to participate in the effort in support of the MSCRF program.

III. Management Report

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

A. Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium Update

The 6th Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at the JHU Medical Campus in Baltimore. Dan is soliciting sponsorships for the event, which includes sponsorship for a Speaker/Awardee Reception. The registration and abstract submission website is now available to the public. The registration fee to attend the symposium is \$75. This fee will be waived for present and past Commission members. The Kellermann Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Rita Perlingeiro Ph.D., an Associate Professor and Lillehei Endowed Scholar from the Lillehei Heart Institute University of Minnesota. A draft of the Agenda is currently in development and will be available for public viewing through the MSCRF website within the upcoming weeks.

B. FY2013 Grant Awards

All FY2013 grant agreements have been signed and the funds are committed. The disbursement of funds for each grant agreement is currently in progress.

C. Economic Impact Study Update

TEDCO Management has contracted the Battelle Institute to conduct a broader analysis of all TEDCO programs, including the MSCRF program. The MSCRF Economic Impact Subcommittee assisted TEDCO management with the criteria for this economic impact study and will determine an effective approach to utilize and present the resulting information. The research process has begun and data is currently being collected. The final results will be shared with the Commission as it becomes available in December 2013. The Commission expressed interest in establishing a list of publications from MSCRF awards. Dan will work to find the best solution to highlight MSCRF funded publications.

D. Stem Cell Fact Sheet

The article "Stem Cell Fast Facts," posted on the CNN Library Web site, provides a brief overview about stem cells, stem cell research, related scientific advances, and a political/historical timeline. Commission Member, Margaret Conn Himelfarb, drafted an edited version of this document that includes other significant information, such as the establishment of the MSCRF and additional key historical events and innovations in the field. Efforts to obtain CNN's permission to publish the modified version of this Fact Sheet, have failed. A consensus was reached not to publish the document and to use the modified version as an informative internal resource.

E. Stem Cell Meetings

The UMB Stem Cell Center extended invitations to the Commission to attend the Stem Cell Event Dinner on October 2, 2013. RSVP is required. The UMB Stem Cell Center has organized a Stem Cell Retreat on October, 18, 2013, at which Dan has accepted an invitation to participate as a speaker on behalf of the Fund and the Commission.

IV. Discussion of RFAs for FY2014

Dan Gincel reported that CIRM has released the list of 2013 Translation II grant awards and opened the discussion by providing an overview of the CIRM joint funding initiative. Dan indicated that the CIRM program provides an opportunity to fund collaborations between Maryland researchers and CIRM-approved Translation II grant recipients. The joint collaboration would require that both MSCRF and CIRM grant recipients investigate different aims of the CIRM funded project that would augment the final results. The list of CIRM Translation II grant recipients will be posted on the MSCRF Web site. Maryland applicants are required to submit a letter of support from the CIRM grant recipient with whom s/he wishes to collaborate. Dan also indicated that this is the first year Maryland applicants will be required to submit a LOI for CIRM projects by the November 15th deadline. MSCRF funds will not be committed in advance of our own scientific review. Each application will be evaluated on its scientific merit and not the CIRM collaboration alone. Existing decision criteria for MSCRF applications will be used to evaluate collaborative grant submissions.

Dan presented the FY2014 RFA drafts and reviewed the minor language modifications. A recommendation was made to retain the current funding amounts and the term durations for all programs this year.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the RFA drafts with the language modifications. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Sickle Cell Disease Workshop

The MSCR Commission and The Sickle Cell Disease Association of America will host a half-day workshop for sickle cell awareness, research, and treatment in the State of Maryland. The workshop will be held on September 24, 2013, from 12:00 – 4:00pm at the BWI Airport Marriott Hotel. The workshop will feature research, treatment and prevention panels as well as an advocacy and awareness panel.

VI. Future Meeting Dates

November 20, 2013 – 3pm to 5pm (TBD)

January 30, 2014 – 2pm to 5pm (UMB BioPark, Baltimore, MD)

May 1, 2014 – 9am to 5pm (TEDCO Offices, Columbia, MD)

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.