

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

**Thursday, September 27, 2012
2:00 p.m.**

Action Items

- 1. Add minor changes to the FY2013 RFAs, as discussed**
 - 2. Circulate choice of dates for FY2013 meetings**
 - 3. Prepare job description for graduate student intern**
 - 4. Attend the Symposium on October 4 and 5**
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Members in attendance:

Brenda Crabbs
Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair
Marye Kellermann
Sharon Krag
David Mosser
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Noel Rose
Karen Rothenberg
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell
Kevin Fitzgerald

Others in Attendance:

Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Rob Rosenbaum, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the June 25, 2012 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as circulated. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Court of Appeals Ruling

Ira reported briefly on the ruling of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in the Sherley vs. Sibelius case, which found in favor of Kathleen Sibelius and HHS, Frances Collins and NIH in support of federally funded embryonic stem cell research. However, it is still possible that the plaintiffs will appeal to the Supreme Court. The results of the presidential election could also affect federal funding for stem cell research.

III. Approval of the FY2013 RFAs

The Commission discussed and approved the four FY2013 MSCRF RFAs, with only a few minor changes. Dan is working on the final details of a new collaboration between MSCRF-funded researchers and California Institute for Regenerative Medicine grant awardees. This funding cycle will mark the third consecutive year that our special partnership with CIRM has significantly leveraged State dollars.

IV. The 5th Annual Stem Cell Research Symposium- Update

Dan reported on the final plans for the Fifth Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium, which will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Annapolis on October 4 and 5. Three hundred and fifty people are expected to attend. The first afternoon of the event will include two interactive workshops focusing on grant writing and regulatory and reimbursement issues. The opening reception will begin at 6:00 pm., followed by the Kellermann Memorial Lecture, which this year will be delivered by Ole Isacson from Harvard, who will discuss new stem cell medicines and treatments for Parkinson's disease.

The second day of the Symposium will include plenary sessions and three concurrent sessions of scientific presentations. Throughout the event, there will be time for networking and viewing over 100 posters displayed by Maryland-funded stem cell researchers. Margaret and Dan thanked Marye for her generosity in contributing an honorarium for the Kellermann speaker, which Marye said she hopes will become an annual donation.

V. New Commission Member

Debra Matthews has been appointed by Johns Hopkins University to fill Jeremy Sugarman's seat on the Commission. Debra is the Assistant Director for Science Programs at the Berman Institute of Bioethics, an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, and an Affiliate member of the faculty at the McKusick-Nathans Institute of Genetic Medicine. Karen mentioned that Debra has also been working part time as a Senior Policy and Research Analyst on the staff of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues.

VI. Dan Gincel's Expanded Responsibility

Margaret congratulated Dan on his expanded position at TEDCO, which provides him the opportunity for job growth while remaining Director of the MSCRF. Rob has given Dan responsibility for overseeing the Maryland Innovation Initiative (MII), a new program that the Governor and five State research universities created to move technologies from research labs to the commercial world. Dan's commitment to the MII program will be only supervisory in nature, as TEDCO will hire a full-time staff person to serve as Manager of that program. Candidates for this position are currently being interviewed.

Dan's first and foremost obligation is, and will continue to be, attending in a timely manner to the needs and duties of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission. Dan's salary and overhead are allocated on a percentage basis, so compensation for all time he dedicates to the MII program, as well as a commensurate amount of indirect costs, will be charged to that fund rather than the MSCRF. Dan, the Chair of the MSCRF, and the CEO of TEDCO will meet periodically to ensure that this dual appointment is working well for both programs.

VII. Graduate Student Intern

The Commission supported the suggestion that Dan recruit a graduate student to serve as a part-time paid intern, charged with collecting, compiling and analyzing metrics to measure the impact of the MSCRF programs. The results of this endeavor will help inform the legislature and the public about the economic benefits of the Fund as well as its role in advancing cutting edge science. Karen suggested inviting students from entrepreneurial programs to apply for this position. Dan will review the job description that Rob wrote for a similar internship with TEDCO and develop a list of qualifications for this position, which Sue will then post on the University of Maryland campus.

VIII. Future Meeting Schedule

The Commission agreed to schedule its FY 2013 meetings on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 5:00 pm, with the exception of the annual grant review in May, which typically requires an entire day. Sabrina will post online several dates in November, January, May and July for members to check their availability.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.