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**** PUBLIC NOTICE ****

Maryland Stem Cell Commission Issues Requests for Applications

COLUMBIA, Md. (Oct. 5, 2009) – Per the Maryland Stem Cell Commission (Commission) meeting on Sept. 9, 2009, the Commission has issued today three official Requests for Applications (RFAs) for funding through the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund under the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act. This is the fourth round of funding from the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund, which has a current operational budget of \$12.4 million for FY 2010.

The grants to be awarded under these three RFAs will fund basic and translational research with human stem cells of all types, as defined in the Stem Cell Act. The goals of this program are to broaden and advance knowledge of human stem cell biology that will be relevant for eventual development of clinical applications, and to enable, support and accelerate such clinical applications for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of human diseases and conditions.

The Commission is seeking the widest range of research topics that may contribute to achievement of these goals and is strongly encouraging collaboration between for-profits and not-for-profits during this funding cycle. **A one-page Letter of Intent is required and must be submitted by Nov. 12, 2009. Applications for funding under these RFAs will be due Jan. 14, 2010.**

RFA-MD-10-1 is soliciting applications for Investigator-Initiated Research Grants, which are designed for investigators with preliminary data supporting the grant application. Maryland-based organizations of all types are eligible for Investigator-Initiated Research Grants. Such organizations include public and private, for-profit and nonprofit: universities, colleges, research institutes, companies, medical centers and others. **A high priority will be given to collaborative projects between for-profits and not-for-profits.** These Investor-Initiated Research Grants will be for up to \$1 million of direct costs over a two-to-five year project. .

RFA-MD-10-2 is soliciting applications for Exploratory Research Grants, which are designed for investigators who are new to the stem cell field (young investigators and investigators from other fields), and for new hypotheses, approaches, mechanisms or models that may differ from current thinking in the stem cell field, without any preliminary data supporting the application. These Exploratory Research Grants will be for up to \$100,000 of direct costs per year, for up to two years.

RFA-MD-10-3 is soliciting nationwide applications for post-doctoral fellows who wish to conduct research on all types of human stem cells in Maryland. Each fellowship being awarded is up to \$55,000 per year for up to two years, which is inclusive of all direct, indirect and fringe benefits costs. Maryland-based organizations of all types are eligible as training institutes, including public and private, for-profit and nonprofit: universities, colleges, research institutes, companies, medical centers, and others. **The Commission will give the highest priority to scientifically meritorious applications that include collaboration between for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in the state.**

The work funded under these RFAs must be conducted in Maryland. The scientists and clinicians conducting the work must be employed or retained by an eligible Maryland-based organization while doing so. Such employment or retainer may be permanent or temporary, full-time or part-time. Individuals from underrepresented minorities and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

All applications must include an explanation of the translation potential, a plan of the proposed research as well as a bioethics section. All Principal Investigators funded under these RFAs will be required to present their interim and final research results at an annual in-state symposium and in annual reports to the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission.

New cell lines initially developed with funding under these RFAs will be required to be shared with other qualified researchers.

Key Dates

- Release: Oct. 5, 2009
- Letter of Intent Receipt Deadline: Nov. 12, 2009
- Application Receipt Deadline: Jan. 14, 2010
- Peer Review: March 2010
- Commission Decision: April 2010
- Earliest Anticipated Start: June 2010

Questions by applicants about these RFAs may only be addressed by email, through the following contact: mscrinfo@MarylandTEDCO.org.

About the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission

Established as an independent unit within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission has set up criteria, standards and requirements to administer the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund in accordance with the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006. The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund has been established to promote state-funded stem research. With a current budget of \$12.4 million for FY 2010, the Commission will support grants to public and private entities in the State. For more information about the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and a list of Commission members, please visit www.mscr.org.

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