



Media Contact:
Kathleen Shaffer
410-902-5053
410-925-7421 (Cell)
kshaffer@mghus.com

***** PUBLIC NOTICE *****

**Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission
Issues Supplement to FY 2012 RFAs – Collaborative
Research Opportunity with the California Institute for
Regenerative Medicine**

Special research partnership enters second year of funding

COLUMBIA, Md. (Dec. 12, 2011) – The Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission) announced today the second year of a pilot program that provides an opportunity for collaboration with the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). The goal of this collaboration is to advance critical human stem cell therapies by fostering meritorious interdisciplinary research across geographic boundaries. This program allows investigators working in Maryland to conduct collaborative research relating to CIRM's Basic Biology III Grant Awards. Last year, the MSCRF/CIRM partnership supported two promising research projects.

Applicants for Investigator-Initiated Research Grants ([RFA-MD-12-1](#)) and Exploratory Research Grants ([RFA-MD-12-2](#)) are eligible to apply to the Commission for participation in year two of this pilot program. Maryland-based Principal Investigators (PIs) can collaborate with a PI working in California whose project has already been approved for funding in CIRM's Basic Biology III RFA competition. The approved CIRM awardees and their projects are listed here: [http://www.mscref.org/content/fundingopps/opportunityforcollaborativeresearchproposalsCIRM\(new\).cfm](http://www.mscref.org/content/fundingopps/opportunityforcollaborativeresearchproposalsCIRM(new).cfm). These are the only CIRM projects that qualify for this program. All of these CIRM projects will be funded for a three-year period, subject to annual review by CIRM.

Under this collaboration, a Maryland applicant must propose supplemental research that will complement the approved CIRM project and in some way enhance or expand its scope (e.g., target a different disease, introduce a new aim, a different technology, another cell line, or a different animal or clinical model). Maryland researchers who wish to apply for collaborative funding under this program must first contact the PI of the CIRM-approved Basic Biology III Award and obtain written agreement from the CIRM PI specifying the nature of the proposed collaboration. To receive the contact information of a potential CIRM collaborator, applicants should contact Amy Lewis at the following e-mail address: alewis@cirm.ca.gov.

If a collaborative research proposal is favorably reviewed by the Scientific Peer Review Committee, and approved by the Commission and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) Board, the MSCRF will fund all project-related work conducted within the State of Maryland. CIRM will continue to fund all approved project-related work conducted within its jurisdiction subject to applicable rules and regulations.

All requirements set forth in the MSCRF 2012 RFAs, and all terms and conditions stipulated in the grant agreement with TEDCO, will remain in effect (e.g., reporting, presentations, sharing of cell lines initially developed with MSCRF funds, etc.).

CIRM Basic Biology III RFA awardees who collaborate with a Commission-funded researcher must continue to comply with all relevant CIRM policies and regulations. Further, any proposed change to the scope of the CIRM-funded Basic Biology III Award project must be approved in accordance with CIRM's regulations before being implemented.

Additional application guidelines for CIRM projects can be found by going to <http://www.mscref.org/content/fundingopps/index.cfm>.

Due to time constraints, applicants who submit a proposal for a collaborative project with a CIRM awardee will be exempt from submitting a Letter of Intent. All other Commission dates for all MSCRF 2012 RFAs will remain in effect.

Key Dates:

- Application Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m., January 16, 2012
- Peer Review Date(s): March 2012
- Commission Review Date: May 7, 2012
- Earliest Anticipated Start: June 2012

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

About the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission

The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF) was established by the State of Maryland under the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006 to promote State-funded stem cell research and cures through grants and loans to public and private entities in the State. Administered by The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), the MSCRF is overseen by an independent Commission that sets policy and develops criteria, standards and requirements for applications to the Fund. The current MSCRF budget for FY2012 is \$12.4 million. For more information about the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and a list of Commission members, please visit www.mscref.org.

###