

**Minutes of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission**

**Wednesday, February 13, 2008  
Sheraton Inn, Columbia MD**

**Members in attendance:**

Joseph Capizzi  
Brenda Crabbs  
John Kellermann  
Linda Powers, Chair  
Karen Rothenberg  
Steven Salzberg  
Jack Schwartz  
Jeremy Sugarman  
Bo Weisheit  
Joel Zaiman

**Others in attendance:**

Sabrina Barksdale (TEDCO)  
Dan Gincel (TEDCO)  
Ira Schwartz (OAG)  
Renee Winsky (TEDCO)

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:10 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The Commission considered the minutes of December 11, 2007. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Administrative Report**

TEDCO staff provided an update on administrative activities. TEDCO issued a press release on February 13, 2008 regarding information on the overall application submissions for the FY2008 funding. There were 122 applications requesting more than \$62 million. Compared to the previous year, there was a significant increase in the Exploratory grant applications. The 122 applications consist of 65 Exploratory, 33 Investigator-Initiated, and 24 Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

On behalf of the Commission TEDCO submitted an annual report to the Maryland Governor O'Malley, as required by statute. This report identified each grantee that received funding, as well as the amount of funding, from the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF). The grants were made from the

State's FY2007 appropriation. The report also provided an abstract in lay terms of the research to be performed. The abstracts were provided by the respective Principal Investigator in their application to the MSCRF.

A new standalone website for the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund is currently in the development stages and will be available within the next upcoming months. The website will display the newly designed MSCRF logo.

The Scientific Peer Review Committees have been established to review all of the grant applications. There are a number of bioethics and translational reviewers on the committees. To date, all of the reviewers have received their reviewing instructions and are currently working on their assigned applications. The Exploratory Scientific Peer Review Committee will meet March 9-11, and the Investigator-Initiated Scientific Peer Review Committee will meet March 16-18. Members of the respective Committees will meet in person to discuss and rank each grant applications. The summary statements and other relevant information regarding the applications will be presented to the Commission in April 2008.

Reviewing the available dates submitted by Commission members, it has been determined that the best dates to conduct the next Commission meetings would be April 17, 2008 and if needed April 22, 2008. The meetings would be held from 12 noon - 6 p.m. to review the grant applications, along with the summary statements from the Scientific Peer Reviewers.

TEDCO is in the beginning stages of planning the 2008 MSCRF Symposium. The specific date and location is currently undetermined but the target is late November, taking into consideration the 2008 election, other major public events, and the Thanksgiving holiday. Steven Salzberg is representing the Commission on a newly formed Scientific Program Committee helping TEDCO staff with scientific aspects of the symposium planning. Other members of the Commission are welcome to join the Committee.

The Commission requested that a survey be developed for distribution to various Maryland Research Institutions soliciting suggestions regarding Shared Research Laboratories/ Facilities. Based on the suggestions provided through the survey the Commission will determine how to develop a Shared Resource Facilities application.

### **III. FY 2009 State Budget Report**

The budget hearings for TEDCO and the MSCRF are Thursday, February 21 and Monday, February 25. The MSCRF FY2009 budget proposed by the Administration is \$23 million. The Senate and House will make decisions in March. As done in previous years, one panel will highlight TEDCO's traditional programs and operations and a second panel will highlight the Commission's work and the progress of the MSCRF.

#### **IV. Bylaws**

Bylaws established by the Commission are optional and not required by law, and are deemed necessary only if the Commission considers them useful for aiding its operations. Many Commissioners indicated that they would be helpful.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the Bylaws with the following statement: %The Corporation is the administrative agent of the Commission and, on the Commission's behalf, shall assist the Commission in the scheduling of meetings, preparation of meeting minutes, dissemination of information to Commission members and to the general public, and other administrative matters.+The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission also discussed the notion of a Vice Chair and term limits on Officers. Jack Schwartz was asked to present alternative language and to circulate a revised draft for the Commission's consideration and vote via email. (NOTE: Subsequent to the February 13, 2008 meeting and on April 3, 2008, a vote was tallied via email to approve the bylaws as amended; eleven votes were in favor of the bylaws and one absentee vote was recorded.)

#### **V. Topics to be Discussed at Future Meetings**

The Commission commented on the lack of translational expertise on the 2007 Scientific Peer Review Committee. The Commission would like the 2008 Scientific Peer Review Committee to contain more translational experts in this year's review.

#### **VI. 2008 Commission Meeting Dates**

The Commission has agreed to cancel the March 11, 2008 meeting.

The Commission agreed to meet on the following dates:

April 17, 2008 . 12:00 p.m. . 6:00 p.m.

April 22, 2008 . 12:00 p.m. . 6:00 p.m. (This date is only if necessary.)

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.