

Minutes of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission

Thursday, November 15, 2007
Sheraton Columbia Hotel Conference Room

Members in attendance:

Brenda Crabbs
John Kellermann
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg
Linda Powers, Chair
Karen Rothenberg
Steven Salzberg
Jack Schwartz
Jeremy Sugarman
Bowen Weisheit

Others in attendance:

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

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:13 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission considered the minutes of October 9, 2007. The Commission requested an amendment to the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes with the specified amendment. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Administrative Report

TEDCO staff provided an update on administrative activities. The Commission was informed that some of the researchers were unaware and confused about the mandatory Letter of Intent, which was not a past requirement. The initial submission due date of the Letter of Intent was November 15, 2007. Due to a number of inquires on the necessity of the Letters of Intent TEDCO recommended an extension date of November 30, 2007. A motion was made and seconded to approve the extension. The motion passed unanimously. A public notice regarding the extension will be issued.

As requested in the October 9, 2007 meeting, TEDCO reported that the current estimated amount of the grant funds carried over from F2007 funding is just over \$1.8 million.

IV. Discussion of RFA for Training and Fellowships

There was consensus amongst the Commission to establish fellowships to use the remaining of the FY2007 funds.

There was consensus amongst the Commission to fund up to 16 post-doctoral fellowships up to \$55,000 a year for up to two years. The Commission felt this will be an effective method to attract more scientific researchers to the State of Maryland for stem cell research.

Staff will work with the Commission to write an RFA that will require a two page description of the proposed research project for the fellowship, a two page description of the institutions training program, a mentor sponsor letter, and two letters of recommendation.

Due to the lack of a quorum at this point in the meeting, the Commission requested that staff circulate via email an RFA for consideration.

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting, the draft RFA document and a motion were circulated to establish post-doctoral fellowships to use the remaining FY2007 funding. The email motion passed with one abstention.

V. 2008 Commission Meeting Dates

The Commission has agreed to meet on the following dates:

January 9, 2008 - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

February 13, 2008 - 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

March 11, 2008 - 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Staff will poll the Commission to establish April meeting dates.

VII. Topics to be Discussed at Future Meetings

- Further discussion on proposal to teach Stem Cell Science to High School Students In Maryland
- Further discussion on the language for the core facility agreements
- Further discussion on the RFI

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.