

APPROVED February 13, 2008

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

**Thursday, December 11, 2007**

**University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)**

### **Members in attendance:**

Brenda Crabbs  
Diane Griffin  
John Kellermann  
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg  
Linda Powers, Chair  
Karen Rothenberg  
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 2:15 p.m.

### **I. Approval of Minutes**

The Commission considered the minutes of November 15, 2007. The Commission requested amendments to the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

### **II. Administrative Report**

TEDCO staff provided an update on administrative activities. TEDCO is currently in the process of signing the remaining grant agreements for the 2007 fiscal year, which should be finalized within the upcoming week.

The Fellowship RFA has been completed. The press release for the RFA is in the final stages of completion and is expected to be finished by next week.

TEDCO has received 127 Letters of Intent (38 letters more than the previous year); 81 are for Exploratory grants and 46 are for Investigator-Initiated grants.

There was a consensus among the Commission members to issue a public statement regarding recent stem cell discoveries in order to educate the public and,

specifically, the legislature. TEDCO staff was directed to draft a proactive statement to be circulated among the Commission via e-mail.

TEDCO is currently working on the RFI document, which will be distributed via e-mail to the Commission after completion.

### **III. Discussion on “Teaching Stem Cell Science to High School Students in Maryland”**

There was consensus amongst the Commission to use the administrative funds to finance the promotion of educational awareness of the Maryland stem cell program to the public and to the Biotech community. The Commission believes the project under consideration from the National Academy of Sciences would be an effective approach to increase public awareness to the general community, but lacks the potential to meet the administrative guidelines or the primary goals identified by the Legislature regarding the disbursement of the stem cell funds. A motion was made and seconded to not approve the proposal for “Teaching Stem Cell Science to High School Students in Maryland.” The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. Discussion on administrative support for other events that promote the MSCRF activity**

The Interstate Alliance on Stem Cell Research (IASCR) is a voluntary body whose mission is to advance stem cell research (human embryonic, adult, and other) by fostering effective interstate collaboration, by assisting states in developing research programs, and by promoting efficient and responsible use of public funds.

A motion was moved and seconded to use administrative funds, up to \$5,000 or consistent to what other States are contributing, to participate in the Alliance. Other requests of this sort that TEDCO deems to be meritorious should be presented to the Commission for consideration. The motion passed unanimously.

### **V. Discussion on translational expertise in the Peer Review Committee**

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 reviews.

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

The Commission has agreed to cancel the following meetings, as they are not needed:

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

March 11, 2008 . 2:00 p.m. . 5:00 p.m. (cancellation pending)

The Commission has agreed to meet on the following date:

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

Staff will continue to poll the Commission to establish April meeting dates.

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

- Finalize the April meeting date
- Receive update on 2008 RFAs

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.