



Media Contact:
Morag Muirhead
410-902-5051
mmuirhead@mghus.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission Receives 122 Applications for Funding

COLUMBIA, Md. (Feb. 13, 2007) – The Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission) has received 122 applications in response to its three official Requests for Applications (RFAs) for funding through the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund under the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006. They include:

- 33 applications for RFA-MD-07-1 (Investigator-Initiated Research Grants) – These grants are designed for investigators with preliminary data supporting the grant application. These Investigator-Initiated Research Grants will be for up to \$500,000 of direct costs per year, for up to three years.
- 65 applications for RFA-MD-07-2 (Exploratory Research Grants) – These grants 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.
- 24 applications for RFA-MD-07-03 (Post-Doctoral Fellowship Grants) – These new grants are for pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows who wish to conduct basic and/or translational research on all types of human stem cells in Maryland. Each fellowship will be awarded up to \$55,000 per year for up to two years, which is inclusive of all direct, indirect and fringe benefits costs.

The total request for all FY '08 Maryland stem cell research applications was more than \$62 million.

The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund was established to promote state-funded stem cell research and has a FY 2008 budget of \$23 million. Consistent with NIH practices – as indicated in the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006 – the Commission considers grant applications confidential and does not release specific application data until awards are made. Applications will be evaluated by an independent peer review committee composed of scientifically recognized experts in the field of stem cell research that reside out of the State.

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 Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006. The goals of this program are to broaden and advance basic knowledge of human stem cell

(more)

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.

Maryland-based organizations of all types are eligible for Investigator-Initiated and Exploratory Research Grants. Such organizations include public and private, for-profit and nonprofit, universities, colleges, research institutes, companies, medical centers and others.

The work funded under the three RFAs must be conducted in Maryland. Scientists and clinicians can be from outside the state, however they must be employed or retained by an eligible Maryland-based organization while conducting the work. 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 and/or plan of the proposed research. Translation potential means the relevance and potential utility of the research (including basic research) for clinical applications for patients. A translation plan means the anticipated process for accomplishing such clinical applications.

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 Commission.

Key Dates

- Peer Review: March 2008
- Commission Decision: April 2008
- Earliest Anticipated Start: June 2008

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 \$23 million budget for FY 2008, 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.MarylandTEDCO.org.

#