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*** * NEWS RELEASE ***

Maryland Stem Cell Commission Announces that 24 Grant Agreements Have Been Signed

***MSCRF calendar year 2007 annual report available with details of all 24 awards,
including abstract and total funding awarded***

COLUMBIA, Md. (Jan. 22, 2008) – The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) and The Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission) announced today the availability of its calendar year 2007 annual report of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF). The annual report identifies the 24 award grantees, provides abstracts in lay terms of the research to be performed – which was provided by the respective principal investigators in their applications to the MRSCF – and the amount of funding each received through the FY2007 appropriation. All 24 grant agreements have been executed and research has started. The report can be accessed at www.marylandtedco.com/documents/TEDCO-MSCRF2007annualreportFINAL.pdf.

During 2007, the Commission and TEDCO – which oversees the management of the MRSCF – received 86 applications for funding, requesting a total of approximately \$68 million. From this pool of applicants, the Commission recommended funding for seven Investigator-Initiated Research Grants and 17 Exploratory Research Grants, which were subsequently approved by TEDCO's board of directors.

The MSCRF – which was \$15 million in FY2007 and is \$23 million in FY2008 – funds basic and translational research with human stem cells of all types, as defined in the Maryland Stem Cell Act of 2006. The goals of this program are to broaden and advance basic knowledge of human stem cell 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.

Investigator-Initiated Research Grants are designed for investigators with preliminary data supporting the grant application. These grants are for up to \$500,000 of direct costs per year, for up to three years.

Exploratory Research 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 grants are for up to \$100,000 of direct costs per year, for up to two years.

The work funded under the grants must be conducted in Maryland, and the scientists and clinicians conducting the work must be employed or retained by an eligible Maryland-based organization.

For grants to be awarded in FY 2008, the Commission received 127 Letters of Intent in response to its two official Requests for Applications (RFAs). In addition, the Commission is soliciting nationwide applications for post-doctoral fellows who wish to conduct basic and/or translational research on all types of human stem cells in Maryland. More information about the MSCRF and the three RFAs can be found at www.MarylandTEDCO.org. Questions by applicants may only be addressed by email at mscrinfo@MarylandTEDCO.org.

Notes to Editors

A PDF or faxed copy of the calendar year 2007 annual report can be sent to members of the media by contacting Morag Muirhead at 410-902-5051 or mmuirhead@mghus.com.

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 \$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.

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