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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Maryland Stem Cell Commission Appoints  
Linda Powers as Chair**

**BALTIMORE** (July 28, 2006) – The Maryland Stem Cell Commission today announces that it has appointed Linda Powers as its chairwoman. Powers, co-founder and Managing Director of Bethesda-based Toucan Capital Corp., was unanimously selected at the Commission's first organizational meeting yesterday.

"I am proud to serve as the Chair of the Maryland Stem Cell Commission. This organization is part of a truly groundbreaking initiative for the state," said Powers. "By funding basic and translational research with high scientific merit, it is our goal to help bring new treatments to millions of Americans suffering from debilitating diseases, as well as enhance Maryland's reputation as a national leader in medical research."

Powers has more than 20 years of experience in seed and early stage venture capital investing, public-private partnerships, corporate mergers and acquisitions, finance and restructurings. Her board service includes directorships of six biotechnology companies. She has also served or currently serves on: the Maryland Governor's Commission on the Development of Advanced Technology Business; the Virginia Research and Technology Advisory Committee; the Board of the Moffitt Technology Corp. of the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Fla.; the Board of the Trudeau Research Institute in NY, a steering committee of the National Academy of Sciences reviewing federal grant programs; and the Advisory Board of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Advanced Technology Program.

Toucan Capital is one of the few U.S. venture funds specializing in seed and early stage investments, including pre-clinical stage life sciences companies. Toucan is currently investing its third fund (\$120 million), which is focused on life science, particularly in regenerative medicine, oncology, immuno-therapies and other biologics.

Toucan has been one of the largest financial investors in stem cell technologies throughout the U.S. for more than five years, with investments in a dozen stem cell and other cell therapy companies spanning most major therapeutic categories. Toucan and its companies provide sponsored research support to nearly two dozen university researchers in stem cells and tissue engineering across the U.S., and have been major sponsors of stem cell and regenerative medicine conferences for more than five years.

Established as an independent unit within TEDCO, the 15-member Maryland Stem Cell Commission will establish criteria, standards and requirements to ensure that stem cell research financed by the newly established Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund complies with state law.

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