

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**

Monday, February 1, 2016
TEDCO Offices
Columbia, MD

Action Items

1. A motion was made and seconded to suspend the investigator initiated RFA for FY2017 and develop a new pilot Commercialization and Clinical program supplementary to the Exploratory and Fellowship program. The motion passed (10 - approved 1 - abstention)
2. A motion was made and seconded to retain the existing Exploratory RFA, funding amount, and the term duration, and to approve the date modifications, along with additional guidance and support. The motion passed unanimously.

Members in attendance:

Rachel Brewster
Margaret Conn Himelfarb
Diane Hoffmann
Sharon Krag
Debra Mathews
David Mosser, Vice Chair
Avram Reisner, Chair
Linda Powers
Ira Schwartz
Curt Van Tassell
Bo Weisheit

Staff in Attendance:

Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Sabrina Spinner, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the December 7, 2015 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Executive Director Report

Dr. Dan Gincel presented the Administrative Report, which focused on the following items:

A. Executive Management Changes

Robert Rosenbaum resigned as President and Executive Director of TEDCO to pursue other interests. Effective immediately, John Wasilisin, who has been TEDCO's Executive

Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since 2007, has been promoted to President and Chief Operating Officer.

B. Eighth Annual MSCRF Symposium-Update

Dr. Gincel is currently negotiating a partnership with the Tech Council of Maryland to include the eighth annual MSCRF symposium in the Bio+Tech 2016 conference, which will be held May 23-24, 2016 at the **Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center**. More info will be provided as it becomes available.

C. 2016 Grant Applications

The Commission received 166 grant applications for FY 2016, and issued a press release with the breakdown by category (3 Clinical/Pre-clinical, 40 Investigator Initiated, 85 Exploratory, and 38 Postdoctoral Fellowship).

D. Legislative Session 2016

The 2016 General Assembly Session has begun. MSCRF is budgeted for \$9.4 million for FY2017, which is level funding from FY2016. TEDCO we will be called to testify on the MSCRF annual budget and for bills related to Commission matters before the Senate Subcommittee on February 26, 2016, and before the House Subcommittee on February 29, 2016. Avram Reisner, Dan Gincel, and John Wasilisin will be present. All Commission members are encouraged to attend. Letters of recommendation and support are always welcome. Dan Gincel will provide electronic updates as they become available.

E. Stem Cell Meetings

The World Stem Cell Summit was held in Atlanta, GA on December 10-12, 2015. Dr. Gincel attended on behalf of the Fund and the Commission.

The MSCRF Post Award Evaluation meeting was held on January 28, 2016 at TEDCO. Dr. Gincel recruited nine reviewers to analyze all MSCRF awards and identify commercial potential technologies developed through the Fund. The resulting information will be used to determine the best approach and resources to foster commercialization of the technologies.

The Maryland-Israel Development Center asked Dr. Gincel to join the lead a delegation and participate in the IsraStem 2016 Conference to promote the Fund and Maryland as a place for Israeli stem cell companies to establish sites. The Conference will be to be held April 2016 in Tel-Aviv, Israel.

III. MSCRF Program Evaluation and New Direction

Dr. Gincel opened the discussion by presenting the concept to establish a funding mechanism to foster the transition of promising technologies from the Universities to the commercial sector, where they can be developed into products and services that meet identified market needs.

After discussing the proposed changes for each of the existing funding programs, a recommendation was made to:

- retain and modify the exploratory and fellowship programs
- recommend to TEDCO to hire additional support staff
- retain the Pre-Clinical / Clinical program with minor modifications
- temporarily suspend the Investigator Initiated program
- establish a pilot Validation & Commercialization program

A motion was made and seconded to suspend the investigator initiated RFA for FY2017 and develop a new pilot Commercialization and modifications to the Clinical program supplementary to the Exploratory and Fellowship program. The motion passed (10 - approved 1 - abstention)

A motion was made and seconded to retain the existing Exploratory RFA, funding amount, and the term duration, and to approve the date modifications, along with additional guidance and support. The motion passed unanimously.

Through discussion, the Commission expressed interest to restructure the Fellowship program to integrate academia and industry/commercial sector but will need further clarity prior to approval. Dr. Gincel will prepare a recommendation for review and approval during the next Commission meeting.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.