

Approved January 18, 2011

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, October 18, 2010

Action Items from October 18, 2010

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- 1. The Commission created a Subcommittee (Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Brenda Crabbs, Karen Rothenberg, Ira Schwartz and Dan Gincel) delegated to swiftly create and release a supplement to the 2011 MSCRF RFAs announcing the CIRM collaboration and requirements for applicants.**
 - 2. Staff will post the approved RFA supplement and list of CIRM Translation II grant recipients on the MSCRF Web site**
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Members in attendance:

Brenda Crabbs
Kevin Fitzgerald
Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair
Marye Kellermann
Sharon Krag
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Noel Rose
Karen Rothenberg
Ira Schwartz
Bowen Weisheit, Vice Chair

Others in attendance:

Sabrina Barksdale, TEDCO
Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Rob Rosenbaum, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

I. Approval of Minutes

The Commission considered the minutes of September 15, 2010. The Commission requested amendments to the minutes. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Management Report

Dan Gincel welcomed and introduced Robert Rosenbaum, the new President and CEO of TEDCO, followed by a brief background overview of Mr. Rosenbaum's 30-year entrepreneurial and corporate history.

Dan Gincel provided an update on administrative activities since the September 15, 2010 Commission meeting.

A. 2010 Symposium Update

The 2010 Annual Maryland Stem Cell Symposium was held on September 22, 2010 at the National Institute of Standard Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD. The symposium was a huge success that attracted close to 400 registrants. There was great feedback on the agenda, particularly regarding the scientific advancement of the research produced by the MSCRF grant recipients. Planning for the next symposium will allow more time for exhibition viewings and interaction with poster presenters.

B. Other Events and Meetings

The World Stem Cell Summit (WSCS) was held in Detroit, MI. October 4, 2010. Dan Gincel and Commission members Karen Rothenberg and Jeremy Sugarman participated on a speakers' panel. The 2010 World Stem Cell Report was dedicated to the memory of the late John Kellermann.

The Interstate Alliance Conference will be held October 19-20, 2010 at the National Academy of Science. Margaret Conn Himelfarb and Dan Gincel will be in attendance.

III. Discussion and Updates on the CIRM-MSCRF Collaboration

Dan Gincel opened the discussion by providing a broad overview of the history of the CIRM joint funding initiative. Dr. Gincel reported that he and Commission member Karen Rothenberg both met with CIRM representatives at the WSC Summit to attempt to resolve a number of overarching concerns and limitations posed by this potential collaboration. In an effort to uphold the respective missions and requirements of both organizations, CIRM suggested providing the opportunity to fund collaborations between Maryland researchers and CIRM-approved Translation II grant recipients. As a condition, the joint collaboration would require that both MSCRF and CIRM grant recipients investigate different aims of the CIRM funded project that would augment the final results.

The Commission reached consensus to accept CIRM's recommendation and agreed to promote the CIRM collaboration as a pilot program. Under this arrangement, no MSCRF funds will be committed in advance of our own scientific review. TEDCO and MSCRF management will collect information on CIRM's Translation II grant recipients who received awards during CIRM's latest funding cycle.

The Commission discussed the need to release an RFA supplement for the CIRM collaboration. The Commission decided that each application will be evaluated on its scientific merit and not the collaboration alone, and that the existing decision criteria for MSCRF applications will be used to evaluate collaborative grant submissions. In addition, the Commission Chair requested that MSCRF applicants be required to submit a letter of support from the CIRM grant recipient with whom s/he wishes to collaborate. A motion was made and seconded to create a Subcommittee charged with the task of swiftly creating and releasing such a supplement to the 2011 RFAs without requiring final approval from the full Commission. Commission Chair, Margaret Conn Himelfarb and Commission members Brenda Crabbs, Karen Rothenberg and Ira Schwartz all agreed to participate on the sub-committee, and Dan Gincel will join their meetings. The Subcommittee will facilitate correspondence via email. The motion passed unanimously.

Pursuant to the Subcommittee's approval, the new MSCRF RFA supplement and the list of CIRM Translation II grant recipients will be posted on the MSCRF Web site.

The Commission discussed the need to stimulate State-wide interest in the collaborative pilot program among their grant recipients and within the scientific community at large. The Commission delegated this task to TEDCO and MSCRF management.

IV. Future Meeting Dates and Location

The Commission agreed to continue to utilize the conference facility at the UMB BioPark to conduct the MSCRC meetings. Future meeting dates will be scheduled via email.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.