

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

Wednesday, September 15, 2010
University of Maryland Bio Park
Baltimore, MD

Action Items from September 15, 2010

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- 1. The Commission will vote electronically to approve the corrected RFAs before publishing them (Commission and TEDCO).**
 - 2. MSCRF staff will organize a funding briefing meeting following the Symposium and the release of the RFAs to educate potential applicants on the application review process (Dan Gincel).**
 - 3. TEDCO will communicate in writing to CIRM regarding a potential collaboration (Dan Gincel).**
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Members in attendance:

Brenda Crabbs
Kevin Fitzgerald
Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Chair
Marye Kellermann
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg
Linda Powers
Avram Reisner
Noel Rose
Karen Rothenberg
Steven Salzberg
Jeremy Sugarman
Curt Van Tassell
Bowen Weisheit

Others in attendance:

Dan Gincel, TEDCO
Sharon Willis, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.

I. Introduction of New Members

A brief introduction and background information was provided on the new Commission members, Marye Kellermann, Kevin Fitzgerald, and Noel Rose.

II. Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved the minutes of July 8, 2010, pending the recommended changes.

III. Management Update

Dan Gincel provided an update on administrative activities since the July 8, 2010 Commission meeting.

A. 2010 Symposium Update

- The 3rd Annual 2010 Stem Cell Symposium will be held September 22, 2010 at the National Institute of Standard Technology, (NIST).
- To date, there are over 300 confirmed registrants.
- The Kellermann Memorial Lecture will be an ongoing annual event, for which this year Ted Dawson (MSCRF Grant Recipient) will be the speaker.
- Senator Cardin's letter to the MSCRC will be read and placed in the opening pages of the Symposium booklet.
- The 12-hour conference will have over 25 speakers and over 130 scientific posters in the designated exhibition area. MSCRF poster presenters and volunteers will be available onsite to assist with scientific inquires pertaining to stem cell research. In addition, there will be exhibitors from local companies and tech transfer offices, to showcase stem cell technologies.
- Out of 130 poster submissions, approximately 65 researchers volunteered to talk and present their studies during the scientific sessions. A Symposium Scientific Committee formed by Curt Civin, Pam Robey, Jeffrey Rothstein and Laure Aurelian, developed decision criteria, reviewed, and chose 2 poster presenters per session.
- There will be a media room available. The symposium will not be recorded. However, in the future we plan to have live Webcasts or Web streaming of the speakers.

B. Other Events and Meetings

Dan Gincel announced his participation and/or attendance at the following meetings and events:

- The World Stem Cell Summit, which will be held in Detroit, MI. October 4, 2010. Commission members Karen Rothenberg, Jeremy Sugarman, and Dan Gincel will participate as speakers on various panels.
- The Interstate Alliance Conference, which is a bi-annual conference for states (including VA, NC, NJ) interested in funding stem cell research. It will be held on October 19 and 20 in Washington D.C.
- The International Biotechnology Conference, which will be held in Washington D. C. June 2011. In effort to increase State visibility, Dan will attempt to find sponsorship for the MSCRF to host an event at the conference.

III. Discussion on Conditions and Limitations for the New RFA's

An RFA Subcommittee was formed during the July 8, 2010 Commission meeting, with the objective to

thoroughly review and modify the existing RFAs for funding in 2011. The Subcommittee consisted of several members of the MSCR Commission. Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg presented the following RFA modifications for Commission approval:

- Include language in all RFAs to encourage more regenerative medicine research and collaborations between for-profit and academic institutions
- Adopt page limits for project description sections like the NIH RFAs in an effort to increase conciseness as follows:
 - Investigator Initiated Application: 12 page limit
 - Exploratory Application: 6 page limit
 - Post Doctoral Fellowship Application: 4 page limit
- Adopt a new 9 point scoring system, consistent with that of NIH
- Decrease the maximum funding and project duration for the Investigator Initiated RFA to a \$600,000 maximum per application for a period of up to 3 years, replacing the existing policy of a \$1,000,000 maximum for up to 5 years.
- Modify the ethics language by removing references to specific policy resources.

After further discussion, there was consensus to modify the RFAs. The Commission requested that TEDCO management revise and submit the final drafts to all Commission members via email for a final vote of approval. Pursuant to the Commission approval, the new RFAs will be posted and accessible online through the MSCRF Web site.

IV. Discussion on the Conditions and Limitations of Joint Funding Collaborations

Dan Gincel will continue to keep the Commission abreast of correspondence with CIRM.

V. Building for the Future

A. Commission Terms

The Commission discussed member appointments and term limitations. For future implementation, the Commission will generate and submit **notification letters** to appointing offices when an appointee is close to term limits.

B. Future Meeting Dates and Location

MSCRF staff will assist the Commission in finding a new meeting location that preferably has free parking and is free of cost. Future meeting dates will be scheduled via email.

C. Quorum

As a reminder, Maryland law requires State Commission members to be present for at least 50% of the meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.