

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

Thursday, July 8, 2010  
University of Maryland Bio Park  
Baltimore, MD

**Action Items from July 8, 2010**

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- 1. The Commission created an RFA Subcommittee (Brenda Crabbs, Ira Schwartz, Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg, Linda Powers and Curt Van Tassell have agreed to participate). The Subcommittee will report to the Commission during the September 2010 Meeting.**
  - 2. MSCRF staff to organize a funding briefing meeting during or after the symposium, to educate potential applicants on the application review process.**
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**Members in attendance:**

Brenda Crabbs  
Margaret Conn Himelfarb  
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg  
Linda Powers  
Avram Reisner  
Karen Rothenberg, Chair  
Ira Schwartz  
Jeremy Sugarman  
Curt Van Tassell  
Bowen Weisheit

**Others in attendance:**

Dan Gincel, TEDCO  
John Wasilisin, TEDCO  
Sabrina Barksdale, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:11 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The Commission considered the minutes of May 3, 2010. A motion was passed and seconded to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Statement for Closing the Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded that the Commission go in to a closed session. The motion stated the following:

**Statutory Authority to Close Session**

**State Government Article Sec.10-503(a)(1)(i):**

This subtitle does not apply to a public body when it is carrying out an administration function.

## REASON FOR CLOSING:

To open the floor for the nomination and election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session.

In closed session the Commission voted to elect Margaret Conn Himelfarb as Chair and Bowen Weisheit as Vice Chair.

### **III. Reopening of the meeting & Management Report**

The meeting reopened announcing the new appointment of Margaret Conn Himelfarb as Chair and Bowen Weisheit as Vice Chair. Dr. Gincel provided an update on administrative activities since the May 3, 2010 Commission meeting.

#### **A. Update on Grant Awards**

Out of the 42 awards the Commission recommended and the TEDCO Board approved for funding, 2 Post Doctoral Fellowship grantees declined their awards due to receiving another grant outside of MSCRF that offered more funds towards their research.

All FY2010 grant agreements have been signed and the funds have been committed.

There is a total of \$10.4 million available to fund stem cell research for FY2011. The Governor's office is currently preparing the budget recommendation for FY 2012, and on behalf of the Commission, TEDCO management will present the Governor's office with a FY2012 funding recommendation.

#### **B. Events and Meetings**

Dan Gincel has announced his participation and/or attendance for the following:

- New York State Stem Cell meeting
- International Society for Stem Cell Research conference, held in San Francisco, CA.
- 2010 The World Stem Cell Summit will be in October, hosted in Detroit, MI. Commission members Jeremy Sugarman and Karen Rothenberg are invited to participate as speakers.

#### **C. 2010 MSCRF Symposium Update**

- The Symposium will be held September 22, 2010 at the National Institute of Standard Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD.
- The Agenda draft is available for Commission review.
- A registration and abstract submission Web site is now available.
- JHU and UMB have both agreed to assist with the transportation for their researchers.

- There will be 200-400 scientific poster spaces available for current and past award recipients, with limited exhibit spaces for partnering companies and not-for-profit organizations.
- As a joint State and federal collaboration, the 2010 symposium will be in partnership with NIST & the NIH, and in collaboration with the FDA & the US Army of Regenerative Medicine. We anticipate over 500 attendees and are encouraging up to 700 to attend.
- Private funds will be raised to host a reception at the end of the symposium.

#### **IV. Discussion on the Conditions & Limitations for Joint Funding Collaborations**

Dan presented the Commission with an itemized list of conditions that warrants further discussion regarding the proposed CIRM collaboration:

Budget limitations to the MD partner, translational potential, bioethics, project summary, annual reporting, annual symposium, sharing of cell lines, intellectual property, eligible organizations, eligible individuals, allowable costs, overall decision criteria.

The Commission discussed the issues and agreed that the three most important to resolve are the sharing of cell lines and reagents, intellectual property issues between the two funding states and the ability to assign Maryland reviewers co-sponsored applications. The Commission would like TEDCO and the MSCRF to have further discussions with CIRM before any joint RFAs are issued.

#### **V. Discussion on Conditions & Limitations for the New RFA's**

The Commission agreed to create an RFA Subcommittee and presented a list of suggested topics for their discussion:

- To modify portions of the Investigative-Initiated, Exploratory and Fellowship RFAs to encourage more regenerative medicine applications.
- To continue to encourage collaborations between for-profit companies and academic institutions.

Commission members Brenda Crabbs, Ira Schwartz, Margaret Conn Himelfarb, Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg, Linda Powers and Curt Van Tassell have agreed to participate. Dan Gincel will also join the discussions. The Subcommittee will meet throughout the summer by conference call and emails and will report their recommendations to the Commission during the September 2010 meeting.

The Commission asked the MSCRF staff to organize a funding briefing meeting, during or after the symposium, to educate potential applicants on the application review process.

#### **VI. Building for the Future**

The Commission chair opened the discussion with a number of questions that the Commission should address in the future: How can we evaluate the success of the MSCRF programs? What can we measure? The Commission agreed that gathering vital information would be beneficial and that we have to find a way to collect that data.

The Commission would like to have some additional information from applicants who have been funded before and apply for a new MSCRF grant (i.e., scientific publications, new technologies utilized, new IP, trademarks, etc.) Most of the data is being collected in the annual report. Each applicant who is either resubmitting a grant or has been funded before will receive an additional three pages.

## **VII. Open Commission Seats**

Dan Gincel updated the Commission members regarding the open seats that the Commission still has and the measures TEDCO has taken to fill them.

## **VIII. Future Meeting Dates and Location**

The Commission will look for available locations for their future meetings and dates will be scheduled by email. The Commission will probably meet four times: Sept., Jan, March/April and June/July. As a reminder, State-assigned Commission members must be present for at least 50% of the meetings. Most meeting will continue to be on Wednesdays from 2pm-5pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.