

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

Thursday, April 17, 2008  
TEDCO Offices  
Columbia, MD

**Members in attendance:**

Joseph Capizzi  
Brenda Crabbs  
Diane Griffin  
Margaret Himelfarb  
John Kellermann  
Suzanne Ostrand-Rosenberg  
Linda Powers, Chair  
Karen Rothenberg  
Murray Sachs  
Steven Salzberg  
Jack Schwartz  
Jeremy Sugarman  
Bowen Weisheit  
Joel Zaiman

**Others in attendance:**

Sabrina Barksdale, TEDCO  
Dan Gincel, TEDCO  
Renee Winsky, TEDCO  
Ira Schwartz, OAG  
Fred Heydrick, BioReview

The Commission meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The Commission considered the minutes of February 13, 2008. With one noted typo, a motion was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Statement for Closing the Meeting**

A motion was moved 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 administrative function.

**State Government Article Sec.10-508(a)(5):**

A public body may meet in closed session to consider the investment of public funds.

**State Government Article Sec.10-508(a)(13):**

A public body may meet in closed session to comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or matter.

**TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

The discussion will concern the implementation of the commission's previously adopted criteria for grant funding. The Commission will discuss which applications to consider, given the scientific rankings and other relevant factors. The discussion might also relate to the characteristic of specific applications.

**REASON FOR CLOSING:**

Paralleling the NIH process for considering funding applications, the commission believes that confidentiality is essential to protect the sensitive information about plans and processes that applicants divulge, to avoid a chilling effect on future submissions, and to enable the most candid Commission discussion of how best to invest limited resources.

The motion passed unanimously. The Commission went into a closed session.

In the closed session, the same persons were present as are listed above. The Commission reviewed tables showing the scientific ranking of, and key information about, each application within the three categories (Investigator-Initiated, Exploratory and Post-Doctoral Fellowships). The application entries did not identify the applicants. The Commission focused on applications that received competitive, meritorious scores.

The Commission recommended applications from the three categories for approval by TEDCO Board.