

**MINUTES OF THE
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**
Monday, May 2, 2011
TEDCO Offices
Columbia, MD

No Action Items from May 2, 2011

Members in attendance:

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

Others in attendance:

Dan Gincel, TEDCO
John Richters (SRO), LTS Corp.
Rob Rosenbaum, TEDCO

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

Steven Salzberg is moving to Hopkins and, therefore, can no longer represent the University of Maryland on the MSCRC. Margaret Conn Himelfarb thanked Steven for his expert advice and five years of service on the Commission. She also thanked Dan Gincel and Bowen Weisheit for their stellar testimony in Annapolis and Rob Rosenbaum and John Wasilisin for their invaluable assistance informing our legislators of the progress and promise of the MSCRF. In addition, she expressed appreciation to Ira Schwartz and Brenda Crabbs for their strategic input.

I. 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 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 recommend for funding, 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 Fellowship). The applications did not identify the applicants. The Commission focused on applications that received competitive, meritorious scores.

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