

**The Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission and the Maryland Stem Cell
Research Fund**

**Request for Application (RFA) Number: RFA-MD-10-3
Post-Doctoral Fellowship Grants**

Introduction

The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF) has been established by the Maryland General Assembly, under the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006 (the Stem Cell Act), to promote state-funded human stem cell research and medical treatments through grants to public and private entities in the state.

To grow the biotechnology community in Maryland by training the next generation of stem cell researchers and fulfill the purpose of the Stem Cell Act, the Commission desires to fund outstanding post-doctoral researchers.

This RFA is soliciting nationwide applications from exceptional pre-doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows who wish to conduct post-doctoral basic and/or translational research on human stem cells in the State of Maryland.

The Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission) is strongly encouraging collaboration between for-profits and not-for-profits. Please see additional information in the review criteria section of this RFA.

Maryland-based organizations of all types are eligible as training institutes. Such organizations include public and private, for-profit and non-profit, universities, colleges, research institutes, companies, medical centers and others.

Award Size and Duration

Each Fellowship will be up to \$55,000 per year, for up to two years, and will include all direct, indirect and fringe benefits costs.

Application Information

Application consists of 2 parts:

- Applicant information (to be completed by the applicant)
 - Applicant CV
 - Proposed project description . two page limit

- Mentor and training program . (to be completed by the mentor)
 - Qualifications of the mentor (bio sketch) and proposed training program and training environment . two page limit
 - Evaluation of the applicant and his/her potential in stem cell research . one page limit
 - Letter of institutional/organizational support.
- 2 letters of recommendation (to be submitted electronically **directly to TEDCO**) describing the qualifications, commitment and potential of the applicant in the filed of stem cells.

Application and Submission Information

Source for Application Information

Application information will be available electronically on the MSCRF website (see www.mscref.org). Telecommunications for the hearing impaired: TTY 443-539-0180.

Submission Dates and Times

Required Letter of Intent Receipt Date(s): November 12, 2009 COB

Application Receipt Date(s): COB January 14, 2010

Peer Review Date(s): March 2010

Commission Decision Date(s): April 2010

Earliest Anticipated Start Date: June 2010

Methods of Submission

The Letter of Intent must be submitted electronically to mscrefinfo@marylandtedco.org as well as to TEDCO at the following address:

Maryland TEDCO
MSCRF Letter of Intent
5565 Sterrett Place, Suite 214,
Columbia, MD 21044.

The Application must be submitted electronically using the TEDCOFunds system (see www.tedcofunds.org) and follow the TEDCOFunds fellowship instructions on the website.

We highly recommend not to wait until the last day to get familiar with the TEDCOFunds system, **please note that the final submission in a University system is done by the research and administration office and not by the PI.**

The electronic submission must be made no later than the specified date for receipt of the Applications. The originals in paper form Letter of Intent must be postmarked (by U.S. Post Office mail or nationally recognized courier) no later than November 12, 2009. Deliveries in person are not permitted, and will not be accepted. Any Letters of Intent or Applications submitted after the respective receipt dates, or postmarked more than one business day after the respective receipt dates, will not be reviewed.

Content and Form of Letter of Intent

Prospective Applicants are required to submit a Letter of Intent that is approximately one (1) page in length, and includes the following information:

- Descriptive title of proposed research
- Name, address, telephone number and email address of the PI
- Participating organizations and sites of proposed research
- Type of grant sought, and RFA number
- Brief description (up to 2,000 characters) of the proposed research
- Indicate disease target if any
- Indicate cell type (hESC, ASC or iPS cell) or a combination
- Indicate Whether the intended research is Basic or Translational or both
- Indicate **expertise required from potential reviewer** - To facilitate the review of the application, please identify the areas and types of expertise needed to evaluate the proposal. Please include keywords that identify elements of the research proposal, such as disease focus, technical approaches, research fields and disciplines.

Applicants will not receive feedback on the Letters of Intent submitted. The Letters of Intent also will not be used by the application reviewers or considered in the evaluation of Applications. The sole purpose of the Letters of Intent is to enable the Commission to plan its workload and select the appropriate range and mix of expertise in the members of the Peer Review Committee, and to enable the Peer Review Committee to plan its review workload.

Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated with respect to the applicant's qualifications and potential for stem cell research, the quality of the proposed training program, the mentor's qualifications and training record, the training environment, and relevance to stem cell research as described in RFA MD-10-1.

Collaboration between for-profits and not-for-profits

The Commission will give the highest priority to collaboration between for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in the state and will give preference in funding to scientifically meritorious applications that include such collaboration. That collaboration may include, but is not limited to, collaborative research projects, training of for-profit employees in an academic institute, or training of academic personnel in a for-profit company.

Award Notices

Successful applicants will be identified in a press release to the media and will receive a formal Notice of Award

Agency Contacts

Questions about this RFA may only be addressed by email to: mscrinfo@marylandtedco.org.