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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission Elects
Karen Rothenberg as Chair and
Brenda Crabbs as Vice Chair**

COLUMBIA, Md. (July 10, 2008) . The Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission) today announced that it has elected Karen Rothenberg as chair and Brenda Crabbs as vice chair. Rothenberg, dean and Marjorie Cook professor of law at the University of Maryland School of Law, succeeds Linda Powers, who completed her two-year term as chair of the Commission. Crabbs, who is the previous chair of the Maryland chapter of the National Arthritis Foundation and member of the organization's medical and scientific council, will serve as the Commission's first vice chair.

I congratulate both Karen and Brenda for being appointed to leadership positions within the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission, and I thank Linda for her outstanding leadership, said Governor Martin O'Malley. The administration of this Commission and the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund is key to the state remaining a leader in life-saving stem cell advancements. I look forward to the continued progress of the Commission and other Maryland life sciences research through the Bio 2020 Initiative. +

Both Rothenberg and Crabbs were unanimously selected by the Commission at the group's first organizational meeting of FY 2009. Rothenberg has been a member of the Commission since its inception in 2006 when she was appointed as a bioethicist by the University System of Maryland. Rothenberg is an accomplished scholar and expert on issues at the intersection of health law and public policy and is the founding director of the nationally ranked Law and Health Care program at the University of Maryland School of Law. Rothenberg has published numerous articles on genetics and public policy and has testified before federal and state legislatures on a wide range of issues, including cloning, genetic testing, and regulation of genetic discrimination and privacy. Rothenberg will serve as chair for one year.

I am honored to serve as the chair of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission and sustain the momentum developed under Linda's leadership, said Rothenberg. Maryland is a national leader at the intersection of scientific research and economic development. The Commission's work will help to maintain our preeminence not only in these areas, but also in our analysis of the public policy implications of stem cell research. I applaud the Governor for his vision in continuing to invest in the future of biotechnology in our state. +

Crabbs has also served on the Commission since its inception in 2006 and was appointed in the capacity of patient advocate by the President of the Maryland Senate. She is a seasoned public health policy supporter and currently serves as director of the Owings Mills Corporate

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Roundtable. Crabbs served on the national board of trustees for the Arthritis Foundation from 2000 to 2006 and is previous chair of the Arthritis Foundation, Maryland Chapter. Crabbs is a member of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee and the Medical and Scientific Committee for the Arthritis Foundation, Maryland Chapter. She will serve as a vice chair for two years.

Being elected vice chair of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission is a huge honor and privilege, said Crabbs. Having seen first-hand the tremendous influence of stem cell research in relation to medical advancements and bioscience, I'm greatly looking forward to assisting our new Chair in guiding the work of the Commission and contributing to Maryland's impressive track record for being a leader in the science and technology sector.

In FY 2008, the Commission awarded 58 stem cell research grants, all of which have been signed and work is underway. With a budget of \$19 million for FY 2009, the Commission expects to issue formal Requests for Applications (RFAs) in late September 2008. It will also host the first Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008, at the Kossiakoff Conference Center at The Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. For more information on the symposium please visit www.mscref.org.

About the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission

Established as an independent unit within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission has set up criteria, standards and requirements to administer the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund in accordance with the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006. The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund has been established to promote state-funded stem research. With a current budget of \$19 million for FY 2009, the Commission will support grants to public and private entities in the State. For more information about the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and a list of Commission members, please visit www.mscref.org.