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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission to Host Third Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium**

***2010 symposium held in partnership with NIH and NIST to focus on facilitating state and national collaboration to advance groundbreaking life science research***

**Columbia, Md. (Sept. 3, 2010)** – The Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission) will host the Third Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium in partnership with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2010. The symposium, “*Facilitating State and National Collaboration to Advance Groundbreaking Life Science Research*,” will be held at the NIST main campus in Gaithersburg, Md., and will feature research supported by the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF) and federal agencies in the state of Maryland. The agenda includes presentations and poster sessions by researchers who have been awarded MSCRF grants over the course of the last four years. This is one of the first events in the U.S. in which both state and federal entities are coming together to address critical issues in stem cell research.

“The Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium allows our state-funded researchers the opportunity to present their findings and progress to the public,” said Governor Martin O’Malley. “It’s a proud day for Maryland, and the participation of NIH and NIST is a testament to the quality and direction of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund.”

Registration for the event is now open at [www.mscref.org](http://www.mscref.org). Cost to attend the symposium is \$100 per person, and the full-day event runs from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Four sessions will cover the topics of hematopoietic and mesenchymal stem cells, induced pluripotent stem cells, stem cells and neurodegenerative diseases and clinical trials with stem cells. The agenda includes opening remarks by Story Landis, Ph.D., Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) and head of the Stem Cell Task Force at the NIH, and Willie May, Ph.D., Director of the Chemical Science and Technology Laboratory at NIST. The first annual memorial lecture honoring the late John L. Kellermann III – a Commission member and passionate advocate for stem cell and Parkinson’s disease research – will be a highlight of the symposium. The Kellermann Memorial Lecture will feature Ted M. Dawson, M.D., Ph.D., Leonard and Madlyn Abramson Professor in Neurodegenerative Diseases - Scientific Director at the Institute for Cell Engineering and Professor for the Departments of Neurology and Neuroscience at John Hopkins University School of Medicine, who will discuss emerging research in Parkinson’s disease. For a full list of presentations, speakers and a detailed agenda, visit [www.mscref.org](http://www.mscref.org).

“This year’s symposium will be a major event,” said Margaret Conn Himelfarb, MPH, chair of the Maryland Stem Cell Research Commission. “Our agenda not only highlights the work of Maryland researchers, but provides insight into where this ground-breaking science is headed nationally. We expect a wide-range of attendees from scientists to the general public, including medical advocates, economic development officials and key players working to advance stem cell research across the country. This symposium is a rare opportunity for investigators from both the public and private sector to share ideas with one another as well as demonstrate how the MSCRF is helping Maryland become a leader in this critical field.”

**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

Members of the media are encouraged to attend the Third Annual Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium. Advanced media credentialing is **required** for access to the symposium. For more information or to request a media pass, please contact Kathleen Shaffer at 410.902.5053 or [kshaffer@mghus.com](mailto:kshaffer@mghus.com).

**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 \$10.4 million for FY 2011, the Commission will support grants to public and private entities in the State. The Commission will host the [Maryland Stem Cell Research Symposium](#) on Sept. 22, 2010 at the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Md. For more information about the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund and a list of Commission members, please visit [www.mscref.org](http://www.mscref.org).

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