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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maryland Stem Cell Commission Receives 85 Applications for Funding

Applications request an estimated \$80 million in funding

COLUMBIA, Md. (Jan. 16, 2007) – The Maryland Stem Cell Commission (Commission) has received 85 applications in response to its two official Requests for Applications (RFAs) for funding through the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund under the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006. In total, the applications are estimated to have requested a maximum of \$80,845,000 in funding. They include:

- 41 applications for RFA-MD-06-1 (Investigator-Initiated Research Grants) – These grants are designed for investigators with preliminary data supporting the grant application. These Investigator-Initiated Research Grants will be for up to \$500,000 of direct costs per year, for up to three years. In total, the applications requested an estimated maximum of \$70,725,000.
- 44 applications for RFA-MD-06-2 (Exploratory Research Grants) – These grants are designed for investigators who are new to the stem cell field (young investigators and investigators from other fields), and for new hypotheses, approaches, mechanisms or models that may differ from current thinking in the stem cell field, without any preliminary data supporting the application. These Exploratory Research Grants will be for up to \$100,000 of direct costs per year, for up to two years. In total, the applications requested an estimated maximum of \$10,120,000.

The applications request funding for research using adult, embryonic, cord blood and cancer stem cells. The research is designed to develop clinical applications for: Alzheimer's, Lou Gehrig's or ALS, tumors, spinal cord injury, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, heart and vascular diseases, kidney diseases, diabetes, muscle repair, bone repair, lung disease, liver disease, Gaucher's disease (enzyme defect that causes fatty accumulation in several organs) and cancer metastasis. Other research includes: methods of stem cell differentiation and methods of delivery.

Consistent with NIH practices – as indicated in the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006 – the Commission considers grant applications confidential and does not release specific application data until awards are made.

The grants to be awarded under these two RFAs are expected to fund basic and translational research with human stem cells of all types, as defined in the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006. The goals of this program are to broaden and advance basic knowledge of human stem cell biology that will be relevant for eventual development of clinical applications, and to enable, support and accelerate such clinical applications for prevention, diagnosis and

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treatment of human diseases and conditions. The Commission sought the widest range of research topics that may contribute to achievement of these goals.

The work funded under these RFAs must be conducted in Maryland. The scientists and clinicians conducting the work must be employed or retained by an eligible Maryland-based organization while doing so. Such employment or retainer may be permanent or temporary, full-time or part-time.

All Principal Investigators funded under these RFAs will be required to present their interim and final research results at an annual in-state symposium, and in Annual Reports to the Maryland Stem Cell Commission.

New cell lines initially developed with funding under these RFAs will be required to be shared with other qualified researchers. Applicants may require the receiving researchers to pay reasonable compensation for the new cell lines. Applicants will be free to decide, at their discretion, whether and to what extent to cover such new cell lines with intellectual property and contractual protections.

Key Dates

Peer Review Date(s): January - February 2007
Commission Decision Date(s): February - March 2007
Earliest Anticipated Start Date: April - May 2007

Questions by applicants may only be addressed by email, through the following contact:
MSCRFinfo@MarylandTEDCO.org.

Established as an independent unit within the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), the Maryland Stem Cell Commission was set up to establish criteria, standards and requirements to ensure that stem cell research financed by the newly established Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund complies with state law. A \$15 million Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund has been established to promote state-funded stem cell research by 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.MarylandTEDCO.org.

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