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**\* \* PUBLIC NOTICE \* \***

## **Maryland Stem Cell Commission Issues Requests for Applications**

COLUMBIA, Md. (Nov. 1, 2006) – The Maryland Stem Cell Commission (Commission) has issued its two official Requests for Applications (RFAs) for funding through the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund under the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act.

The grants to be awarded under these two RFAs will fund basic and translational research with human stem cells of all types, as defined in the Stem Cell Act. 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 treatment of human diseases and conditions. The Commission is seeking the widest range of research topics that may contribute to achievement of these goals. Applications for funding under these RFAs will be due on Jan. 3, 2007. One-page Letters of Intent are requested, though not required, to be submitted by Dec. 3, 2006.

One Request for Applications, [RFA-MD-06-1](#), is soliciting applications for Investigator-Initiated Research Grants, which 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.

A separate Request for Applications, [RFA-MD-06-2](#), is soliciting applications for Exploratory Research Grants, which 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.

Maryland-based organizations of all types are eligible for Investigator-Initiated Research Grants. Such organizations include public and private, for-profit and nonprofit, universities, colleges, research institutes, companies, medical centers and others.

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. Individuals from underrepresented minorities and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

All Applications must include an explanation of the translation potential and/or plan of the proposed research. Translation potential means the relevance and potential utility of the

research (including basic research) for clinical applications for patients. A translation plan means the anticipated process for accomplishing such clinical applications.

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, in their discretion, whether and to what extent to cover such new cell lines with intellectual property and contractual protections.

### **Key Dates**

Release Date: Nov. 1, 2006

Letter of Intent Receipt Date: Dec. 3, 2006

Application Receipt Date: Jan. 3, 2007

Peer Review Date(s): January - February 2007

Commission Decision Date(s): February - March 2007

Earliest Anticipated Start Date: April - May 2007

**Questions by applicants about these RFAs may only be addressed by email, through the following contact: [mscrinfo@marylandtedco.org](mailto:mscrinfo@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](http://www.MarylandTEDCO.org).

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