

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARYLAND STEM CELL RESEARCH COMMISSION**

Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
TEDCO Offices  
Columbia, MD

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**Action Items**

1. A motion was made to approve the concept of adding a company post-doctoral component to the existing fellowship program. The motion was seconded and approved (9 approved, 1 opposed).
2. A motion was made and seconded to approve the “Accelerating Cure” concept with all of the components that were tentatively identified. The motion passed unanimously.

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**Members in attendance:**

Rachel Brewster  
Margaret Conn Himelfarb  
Diane Hoffmann  
Sharon Krag  
Debra Mathews  
David Mosser, Vice Chair  
Avram Reisner, Chair  
Linda Powers  
Ira Schwartz  
Curt Van Tassell  
Bo Weisheit

**Staff in Attendance:**

Dan Gincel, TEDCO  
Sabrina Spinner, TEDCO

The Commission meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the February 1, 2016 meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Executive Director Report**

Dr. Dan Gincel presented the Administrative Report, which focused on the following items:

**A. Eighth Annual MSCRF Symposium-Update**

The MSCR Commission has partnered with the Tech Council of Maryland to integrate the eighth annual MSCR Symposium with the Bio+Tech16 Conference. The conference will be held **May 23-24, 2016 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center**. The conference will feature educational tracks for Stem Cell

Research, industry-specific and combined-industry topics. The sessions will be led by local, regional and world-renowned speakers. The MSCRF has received over 100 scientific abstracts for the poster session. The conference and registration website are available to the public.

**B. Legislative Session 2016**

TEDCO was called to testify on the annual budget and for bills related to Commission matters before the Senate Subcommittee on February 26, 2016, and before the House Subcommittee on February 29, 2016. The legislative budget analyst did not recommend any changes to the Governor's budget and no indication that the legislature would deviate from that recommendation.

**C. Financial Disclosures**

The State Ethics Commission is implementing the financial disclosure program for calendar year 2015. The financial disclosures must be updated and filed by Monday, May 2, 2016. The electronic form and submission web link will be circulated via email to all Commission members who are required to comply.

**D. Application Review Meeting**

The Scientific Peer Review Committee meetings are scheduled March 17 - 24, 2016. Over 90% of the reviewers have been identified and assigned applications. Travel arrangements and the meeting location have been secured. The Commission will meet in May 2016 to review the Committees recommendations for funding.

**E. Stem Cell Meetings**

The Maryland Dept. of Commerce (formerly DBED) invited Dr. Gincel to join the MIDC Delegation and participate in the Israel Stem Cell Conference to promote the Fund and Maryland as a place for Israeli stem cell companies to establish sites. The Conference will be to be held April 1-8, 2016 in Israel.

The NYSTEM2016 conference will be held May 10-11, 2016 at Rockefeller University in New York. Dr. Gincel is scheduled to attend on behalf of the Commission.

**F. Future Dates**

Monday, May 2, 2016, 9 am – 5 pm (Commission Review Meeting)

**III. Pilot Validation & Commercialization Program Discussion**

Dr. Gincel revisited the validation & commercialization program discussion and presented the Accelerating Cure concept to foster the transition of promising technologies from the Universities to the commercial sector, where they can be developed into products and services that meet identified market needs.

The Accelerating Cure program consists of 4 components:

- Discovery
- Validation
- Commercialization
- Clinical

The proposed model is intended suspend the Investigator Initiated program, modify the existing Exploratory program and retain the Clinical as is. There was a recommendation to eliminate the Post-Doctoral Fellowship program, but through further discussion, the Commission expressed a strong desire to retain and modify the Fellowship program to include funding opportunities for

universities and companies (non-profit/profit entities). There was a consensus that the Commission supports the concept of the proposed funding model but there were a number of practical issues that the Commission felt needed further clarity prior to full *support/approval*.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Accelerating Cure concept with all of the components that were tentatively identified. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the concept of including a company post-doctoral component to the existing fellowship program. The motion was seconded and approved (9 approved, 1 opposed).

Management will present the “Accelerating Cure” model, to the Administration. If the concept is well received, Dr. Gincel will work with the Commission to develop an implementation plan. Additionally, Dr. Gincel will develop the Accelerating Cure RFAs.

#### **IV. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 4:09 p.m.