REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

MSCRF Post-Doctoral Fellowship Program

INTRODUCTION

Stem cell research offers extraordinary promise for new medical therapies and a better understanding of debilitating human diseases, injuries and conditions. The development of new medical strategies for the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure of human diseases, injuries and conditions through human stem cell research is a high priority for the State of Maryland.

FUNDING OBJECTIVES AND PROGRAM OVERVIEW

This Request for Applications is soliciting Applications for **Post-Doctoral Fellowship Grants**. These Grants are for post-doctoral fellows who wish to conduct basic, translational, commercial and/or clinical research involving human stem cells. The MSCRF supports projects involving human stem cells of all types, as defined in the Stem Cell Act.

The purpose of the award is to train the next generation of human stem cell researchers and expand the biotechnology community in Maryland. There is currently a need for more investment in basic, translational, commercial and clinical research to pursue the potential of stem cell therapies.

Grants awarded under this RFA will fund research projects involving human stem cells, stem cell derivatives (including extracellular vesicles), or other technologies enabling or supportive of stem cells.

All State-funded stem cell research must be conducted in Maryland. Applicants must commit to make the results of their MSCRF-funded research readily available to others, through publications (preferably), public presentations or other accessible means.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

The applicant must have completed the doctoral degree within the past 3 years, unless the applicant had any career breaks or periods of part-time work, for example parental or long-term sick leave. In such circumstances, prior to submitting the application, the Applicant must discuss the nature and justification for the career break with MSCRF staff and obtain approval for application submission.

Exceptional post-doctoral fellows who wish to conduct research in Maryland and have institutional or company support are eligible to apply for this Award. The Applicant and all other MSCRF-funded personnel must be employed or retained by an eligible Maryland-based organization while conducting this work. Such affiliations may be permanent or temporary, full-time or part-time. Maryland-based organizations of all types may serve as Post-Doctoral training locations. Such locations include public and private for-

profit and not-for-profit organizations (e.g., universities, colleges, research institutes, companies and medical centers).

Organizations based outside the State of Maryland are not eligible for funding. However, collaborations with non-Maryland based organizations or persons may be allowable if the Applicant can demonstrate that none of the MSCRF funding will be used to support work performed outside of Maryland.

The Applicant (post-doc fellow) is the Principal Investigator ("PI"), and the Mentor of the Applicant will have responsibilities under the Grant Agreement. Letters of support from the Applicant's Mentor and sponsoring institution, company, or organization are mandatory. Individuals from underrepresented minorities and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

OTHER ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Awardees will receive MSCRF funds only after providing documentation to MSCRF confirming that the research to be conducted with MSCRF funds has been approved or exempted by the relevant Institutional Review Board ("IRB") and, if applicable, Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee ("IACUC") as well as documentation of approval or exemption by a Stem Cell Research Oversight (SCRO) Committee before MSCRF funds shall be released.

AWARD INFORMATION

AVAILABLE FUNDS

The MSCRF is currently budgeted to commit up to $16.05 million, in aggregate, in FY 2027 to fund Grants under all of its RFAs. The number of Grants awarded will depend upon the quality, size and mix of Applications received.

AWARD SIZE, DURATION & TERMS

Each Fellowship Award will provide up to $65,000 dollars per year, for up to two years, and will include all direct, and fringe benefit cost not to exceed a total of $130,000.

Because the nature and scope of the proposed research ("Research Project") will vary from Application to Application, the size and duration of Awards may also vary. Approved projects may be funded at or below the requested/proposed amount, for a number or reasons, including potential reductions in state appropriations or funding otherwise available to MSCRF.

APPLICATION INFORMATION

DEI REGISTRATION

Pursuant to its enabling legislation, TEDCO is required to foster inclusive and diverse entrepreneurship and innovation throughout Maryland. Accordingly, TEDCO is now collecting race, gender, and ethnicity data, to better understand the communities that are accessing MSCRF resources/funding. This data will not be accessible to MSCRF/TEDCO program/fund managers and will only be provided to them in an aggregated (anonymous) form. The data will not be used for funding consideration.

CONTENT & FORMAT OF APPLICATION

All Sections of the Application must be submitted through the MSCRF online submission system. The document must be formatted using point size 12 Arial font with margins no smaller than one-half (0.5) inch on all sides and uploaded in a PDF format using the instructions in the portal. Applications not meeting the minimum requirements will be rejected without further consideration and the Applicant will be so notified. Information or documents submitted after the Application Submission Deadline will not be accepted, included, or considered in the review of the Application.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

The intent of the Application is to provide enough information so a panel of reviewers can effectively evaluate the merit of the Research Project. Application must include the following information:

Section I. Title of the Research Project

Section II. Web form Questions: Applicant must respond to the following questions:

- New application or resubmission and the prior application number(s) for prior MSCRF applications
- Proposed Research Project period of performance
- The total amount of funding requested
- Whether the research is translational or basic
- IP status - whether there is a pending or issued patent application (s) directed to the Research Project
- Type of stem cell type that will be used for Research Project
- List the disease indication and disease category for the Research Project
- List Keywords for the Research Project (100 characters limit)
- Short non-confidential summary of the Research Project. If awarded, this information becomes public. Do not include any confidential or proprietary information. (1800 characters limit)
- Public Health Impact Statement: 2-3 sentences on public health impact. If the Research Project outcome will inform the development of a product that serves medically underserved communities or a rare disease, please also specify. (500 characters limit)
- Bioethics statement: describing the ethical issues relevant to the proposed research and how these issues will be addressed, including, but not limited to, a discussion of the ethical issues related to the cell type(s) and cell line(s) to be used; animal welfare (i.e., IACUC); IRB review and related concerns regarding human subjects, if applicable. (1800 characters limit)
- Impact on Biotechnology in Maryland. Describe the potential of this application to impact the biotechnology sector in the state of Maryland. Some examples may include generation of new IP or IP that may be licensed or lead to commercialization, existing or proposed new collaborations, creation of new jobs, and workforce development. (1800 characters limit)
- Translational Potential and/or Plan: Provide an explanation of (i) the relationship between the proposed research and the etiology, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human diseases or conditions; (ii) how clinical practice and treatment of human diseases or conditions will be advanced by the proposed research; (iii) how the proposed research may contribute to new medical therapies or test new therapies in human patients; and/or (iv) how the proposed research will translate prior research results into new medical therapies or test new therapies in human patients, and the projected timeline for accomplishing such clinical application(s) (1800 characters limit)
- PI Areas of scientific expertise (100 characters limit)
- PI Primary research focus (500 characters limit)

- Areas of potential collaboration that the PI is seeking (500 characters limit)
- Enter the URL address of your laboratory.

Section III. Attachments: Ensure strict adherence to the page limits. Incompliance with the application requirements will result in disqualification.

1. **Research Project Summary - Limited to one (1) page.**
   Research Project Summary describing the proposed research and its potential contribution toward the goals of the MSCRF and this RFA, as set forth in this document.

2. **Research Plan - Limited to six (6) pages, including all tables, figures and charts.**
   A description of the Research Strategy and Design, Data in support of the Research Project, Significance, Specific Aims, Rationale, Approach and Innovation**.**

3. **Mentor and training program,** to be completed by the Mentor
   a. Proposed Training Program and Training Environment, not to exceed two (2) pages
   b. List of up to five (5) previous Trainees, their current employment and any involvement in stem cell research, not to exceed two (2) pages
   c. Evaluation of the Applicant and his/her potential to conduct stem cell research, not to exceed one (1) page. This section covers the Mentor's recommendation for the applicant. A separate recommendation letter from the Mentor is not required.

4. **Resources and Environment - Limited to one (1) page.**
   A description of the facilities in which the work will be conducted and how the scientific environment will contribute to the probability of success, especially such things as independent space, department support and institutional support, collaborative arrangements involving on-site resources.

5. **Data Sharing and Management Strategy - Limited to one (1) page.**
   Facilitating the sharing of data and insights resulting from MSCRF-funded projects is pivotal for propelling stem cell research and expediting patient treatments. MSCRF mandates awardees to create and implement a comprehensive Data Sharing and Management Strategy encompassing data handling, preservation, and accessible dissemination to the wider scientific community. Moreover, MSCRF enforces adherence to FAIR data principles and necessitates data sharing via recognized repositories like specialized NIH-supported repositories, generalist repositories, cloud platforms, and institutional repositories.

6. **Resubmissions - Limited to two (2) pages.**
   In the event that an Applicant PI's proposal is initially rejected, and the Applicant PI chooses to reapply for Program funding, the Applicant PI must submit a written response to the reviewers' comments including how those comments were addressed in the resubmitted application. Please include an introduction to the revised Application, including the Application Number of the previous MSCRF submission, and a point-by-point response to the prior scientific review.

7. **Collaboration Plan, if applicable - Limited to two (2) pages.**
   A detailed description of the nature and terms of the collaboration, and a management plan explaining such issues as how the Applicant PI and collaborator(s) will communicate and handle

confidential information, use milestones to determine resource allocation and Research Project direction, share data and resources, prepare required reports and handle geographic separation, if applicable.

8. **Bioethics**: A detailed bioethics section describing the ethical issues relevant to the proposed Research Project and how these issues will be addressed, including:
   - Cell lines and ISCRO review
     - Does the proposed project use adult, embryonic, iPS or other human stem cell lines?
     - If human embryonic stem cells are involved, has the Proposal been approved by an ESCRO/SCRO Committee?
     - If an existing stem cell line is to be used, what are the justifications for that line?
     - From where will they be obtained (e.g., commercial source, laboratory and under what protocol or with what institutional approval)?
     - If new lines are to be created, what measures will be taken to comply with the Stem Cell Act, as well as existing stem cell research bioethics guidelines?
     - If human donors are involved, have they been properly consented?
     - Has an ISCRO reviewed and approved the proposed research?

   - Human subjects and IRB review
     - Will human subjects be enrolled in the proposed research?
     - If human subjects are involved, what protections will be in place to ensure their rights and welfare?
     - Has IRB approval or exemption been obtained for the proposed research, or will it be?

   - Nonhuman animals and IACUC review
     - Will nonhuman animals be used in the proposed research?
     - If so, what type/model will be used, sex, and what is the justification?
     - How many? What is the justification for the number to be used?
     - Has IACUC approval been received, or will it be?
     - What measures will be taken to comply with IACUC guidelines?

9. **Supporting Literature - Limited to three (3) pages.**
   Provide a list of scientific Literature in support of the Research Project.

10. **Biosketches:** Do not exceed five (5) pages for the PI and Mentor each; two (2) pages each for other key project personnel.

11. **Other Support:** List Other Support for the PI, including both current and pending support as described in the instructions.

12. **Statement of Work (SoW) - Limited to one (1) page.** Applicants must use the provided template to prepare a Statement of Work that defines the project's period of performance, overall objective and scope, and the specific aims or tasks, key activities/milestones, target completion date, and measurable success criteria for each milestone. Such information is required only for each significant developmental milestone rather than for every aim listed in the application. Milestones and deliverables should be concise, measurable, and consistent with the proposed project timeline and budget.

13. **Budget and Budget Justification:** A list of the names, affiliate organizations, and roles of all key personnel including Mentor, in addition to the Applicant PI, who will contribute to the scientific development or execution of the Research Project in a substantive way and devote measurable effort (in person months) to the Research Project, whether or not salaries are requested. Typically, these individuals have doctoral or other professional degrees, although individuals at the master's or baccalaureate level should be included if their involvement meets the definition of key personnel. "Effort of zero person months" and "as needed" are not acceptable levels of involvement for key personnel.

    There are no indirect costs allowed with the Postdoctoral Fellowship program. Expenses for domestic travel are capped at $5000. International travel is not an allowable expense.

    All expenses directed to the Research Project should adhere to the specific line items listed in the proposal. Any budget changes or reallocation of funds between budget categories over 10% of the overall budget must be approved by MSCRF **prior to** reallocation. In the event of remaining unspent funds from one installment, a carryover request must be submitted to MSCRF for approval to carry the funds to the next installment with a justification of why the funds were not used and how they will be used in the next installment.

    MSCRF funds may not be used to cover personnel costs of collaborators who are located and/or conduct the work outside the State of Maryland, regardless of whether such out-of-State collaborators are employed or retained by a Maryland-based or non-Maryland based organization. Applicants are permitted to include out-of-State collaborators under the Fellowship Grant if they demonstrate that no MSCRF funds will be used to support work or personnel costs for the out-of-State collaborators.

14. **Appendix – Recommendation and Collaborator Letters:** The PI should include letters of recommendation and, if applicable, collaboration. At a minimum, include a **Letter of Institutional/Organizational Support** as well as two (2) **Letters of Recommendation** from individuals other than the Mentor describing the qualifications, commitment, and potential of the Applicant in the field of stem cell research.

    Additionally, if applicable, letter of collaboration from each collaborator on university, institute, or company letterhead (i) agreeing to the proposed collaborative research; (ii) briefly outlining the nature of the collaboration; and (iii) agreeing that, if MSCRF funding is awarded, they shall share research results with each other and comply with the progress reporting duties under the MSCRF Grant Agreement, conditioned upon TEDCO's duty to maintain the confidentiality of the reported information to the extent reasonably permitted by Title 10, Subtitle 6 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Such letters must be co-signed by the collaborators and responsible officials at the collaborator's affiliate institutions. Limited to one (1) page per Collaborator.

15. **Appendix – Supporting Materials:** This section may not be used to circumvent the length limitations of the Application. Do not include information that should be in the main proposal application. Complete the checklist template on the portal to list the documents included in this section. Compile all supporting documents into a single PDF file.

16. **Photo:** Upload a headshot photo of the PI and Mentor for publishing on the MSCRF website if awarded.

Notes:

- The Appendix may not be used to circumvent the length limitations of the Application. Applications that are incomplete, do not meet the format and/or content requirements, exceed specified length limits, are non-responsive to this RFA or are from ineligible Applicants will not be reviewed.
- Applicant PI must obtain approval from their research/grants administration office before submitting an application.
- Complete the checklist template on the portal to list the documents included in this section. Prior to submission, compile all documents into a single PDF file.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

SUBMISSION DEADLINES & REVIEW DATES

- **Application submission deadline:** January 20, 2027, by 5:00 p.m. EST
- **Peer review meeting:** Week of April 4, 2027
- **Commission review date(s) and announcement of awards:** May 2027

METHODS OF SUBMISSION

The MSCRF online submission system is now open for application submissions. Applicant PIs are encouraged to submit their application at least one week before the Application Submission Deadline. The Grant Application must be submitted by **January 20, 2027, no later than 5:00 p.m. EST**. **Late submissions will not be considered.**

REVIEW INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW:

All applications will be initially reviewed by the MSCRF staff to ensure that they meet the minimum requirements, as specified in this RFA (the "Compliance Review"). Applications not meeting the minimum requirements will be rejected without further consideration and the applicant will be so notified. A complete submission (all sections) cannot exceed the page limit as included for each section or it will be rejected without consideration.

REVIEW PROCESS:

Following the Eligibility and Compliance Review, all Applications will be assigned by the MSCRF Scientific Review Officer (SRO) to a number of reviewers for review and preliminary scoring. All Applications, receiving average scores above a threshold determined by the Program will be brought to the full MSCRF Review Committee.

The MSCRF Review Committee will consist of representatives of the research, business and investor community and are all from outside of the state of Maryland. Each applicant will receive a copy of the reviewer comments and scores at the end of the process, whether the applicant is approved or declined for funding.

REVIEW CRITERIA:

Applicants will be evaluated on each section of their proposal listed under the application components and the applicant's ability to address each criterion listed in those sections. **Consideration will be based on how completely the applicant has provided information requested for the section and how convincingly the applicant has made a case for the opportunity based on the subject Technology.**

To receive a high scientific priority score, Applicants are encouraged to address the following categories:

- **The Applicant's qualifications and potential to conduct stem cell research**
  - Was the level of the Applicant's preparedness for the proposed research training plan discussed? Consider the context, for example, the Applicant's stage of training and the opportunities available.
  - Did the Applicant and Mentor statements as well as the support/recommendation letters provide convincing evidence that the Applicant possesses qualities (such as scientific understanding, creativity, curiosity, resourcefulness, and drive) that will improve the likelihood of a successful research training outcome?

- **The Mentor's research training qualifications**
  - Does the Mentor present a strong mentoring plan appropriate to the needs and goals of the Applicant?
  - Do the Mentor's previous trainees and their current employment still involve stem cell research?

- **The potential of the proposed Project to train the Applicant**
  - What is the Applicant's potential to benefit from the fellowship research training plan and to transition to the next career stage in the stem cell research workforce?
  - Will the level of commitment provided contribute to the successful completion of the proposed plan and allow the candidate to advance to an independent career track in stem cell research?

- **The training environment (Resources and Facilities)**
  - Does the application present adequate details about the organization's operations, location(s), and facilities?
  - Does the scientific environment in which the work will be conducted contribute to the probability of success?
  - Do the proposed studies benefit from any unique features of the scientific environment or subject population?
  - Do these studies employ useful collaborative arrangements involving on-site resources and personnel?
  - Is the institutional support adequate?

- **The scientific merit of the research proposal (Scientific Rationale, Innovation, Significance, and Approach)**
  - Is the Research Project likely to have a major scientific impact? Does this Research Project address an important scientific problem relevant to human stem cells? Is the Research Project

original or innovative and does it challenge existing paradigms, address a critical barrier to progress, or develop/employ new concepts, approaches, and methodologies? What is the relationship between the proposed research and etiology, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of human diseases or conditions? If the aims of the Application are achieved, how will scientific knowledge or clinical practice and treatment of human diseases or conditions be advanced? What effect will these studies have on the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, and/or preventative interventions that drive stem cell biology?

- Is there enough support from the literature/or preliminary data to support the rationale of the Research Project? Are the conceptual framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well-integrated, well-reasoned, and appropriate to the aims of the Research Project? Is relevant literature appropriately referenced? Are anticipated results discussed? Does the Applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? Are the experiments as designed likely to significantly impact the field?
- Does the training plan identify areas of needed development and contains appropriate, realistic activities and milestones to address those needs?

- **Budget and Budget Justification**
  - Is the requested period of support appropriate for the scope of the Research Project? Is the effort listed for all personnel appropriate for the proposed work? Is each budget category realistic and justified in terms of the aims and methodology? If equipment is requested, is it justified, cost-effective, and budgeted appropriately?

- **Key Project Personnel**
  - Are the key project personnel, including external consultants, adequately qualified and experienced for planning and successful execution of the proposed project?
  - Does the research team bring complementary and integrated expertise to the Research Project?
  - If the proposed research involves collaboration(s) among scientists and/or clinicians from for-profit and/or not-for-profit organizations, is there a demonstrated commitment from each entity and a realistic management plan that addresses all potential obstacle (i.e., how the Company and collaborator(s) will communicate milestones to handle confidential information, use milestones to determine resource re-allocation and Project re-direction, share data and resources, prepare required reports and handle geographic separation, if applicable)?

- **Bioethics**
  - Does the proposed project use adult, embryonic, iPS or other human stem cell lines?
  - If an existing line is to be used, what are the justifications for that line?
  - If new lines are to be created, what measures will be taken to comply with the Stem Cell Act, as well as existing stem cell research bioethics guidelines?
  - If human donors are involved, have they been properly consented?
  - If human subjects are involved, what protections will be in place to ensure their rights and welfare?
  - If human embryonic stem cells are involved, has the Proposal been approved by an ESCRO/SCRO Committee?
  - If animal subjects are to be used, what measures are taken to comply with IACUC guidelines?

- **Translation Potential and Plan**
  - Does the Application include strong interactions between basic, translational, and/or clinical components?
  - Will the Research Project lead to new medical therapies or test new therapies in patients
  - Will the research help explain the course of any human disease(s) or condition(s)?
  - Will it identify new biomarkers or other methods for preventing or diagnosing disease(s) or condition(s)?
  - Will it identify new targets for treatment and/or develop new treatment strategies, products, or tools?

- **Impact on Biotechnology in Maryland**
  - What is the potential impact of the proposed research on the advancement of biotechnology in Maryland's academic, business and/or non-profit sector(s)?
  - Will this Project help create new biotechnology jobs and grow Companies and/or program opportunities in Maryland?

- **Prior Submissions/Awards**
  - If this was a resubmission, was a written response to the previous reviewers' comments provided, including how those comments were addressed in the resubmitted application?
  - If the work was previously funded by the MSCRF, in whole or in part:
    - Did the Investigator make significant scientific progress towards the goals of the previously funded research?
    - Were results of the previously funded Project reported in scientific publications and/or presented at conferences?
    - Did the previously funded research result in new collaborations, inventions or Project-generated resources or subsequent funding from non-MSCRF sources?

Collaboration between For-profit and Not-for-profit Organizations:

The Commission strongly encourages research collaborations between for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in Maryland and will give preference to scientifically meritorious Applications that include such collaborations (e.g. training of for-profit employees in an academic institution, or training of academic personnel in a for-profit company, or collaborative research Projects).

The Commission reserves the right to pursue collaborative funding arrangements with third parties and, in such an event, the further right to share the application materials and/or the review summaries with those potential co-funders upon the execution of a Confidentiality Agreement restricting their further disclosure.

SCORING

The Scientific Peer Review Committee will review all Applications and rank them. Similar to the NIH scoring system of 1-9 will be used to rate the overall impact/priority of the proposed research. In this system, “1” indicates the highest impact/priority and “9” indicates the lowest impact/priority. The Commission will then review the ranked Applications and make final funding decisions.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

NOTIFICATION

The PI's affiliate organization will be notified electronically when the Application is received. A formal notification, in the form of a Notice of Award ("NOA"), signed by the MSCRF Executive Director, will be sent via email to successful Applicants.

No Applicant should assume receipt of funding for a Project until a Grant Agreement has been signed by the Applicant's sponsoring institution, company or organization and MSCRF/TEDCO.

Furthermore, the applicant must furnish specific regulatory compliance documents listed below before commencing the Research Project. Once these compliance documents are received and approved by MSCRF, the applicant's Principal Investigator (PI) will receive the first disbursement of funds and must promptly initiate work on the Research Project.

Regulatory Compliance Documents list:

- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or exemption, including the Applicant's name, project title (matching the title of the Award), and expiration date.

- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval if animal work is to be conducted, including the Applicant's name, project title that matches the award's title, and expiration date. In the event the title of the approved IACUC protocol is different, an official letter from an authorized IACUC representative must be furnished to indicate that the animal research to be conducted under the newly awarded MSCRF Research Project is covered under that IACUC protocol.

- Stem Cell Research Committee (SCRO) approval or exemption including the Applicant's name, project title that matches the award's title, and expiration date if the research involves embryonic stem cells. In the event the title of the SCRO approval/exemption is different, an official letter from an authorized SCRO representative must be furnished to indicate that the stem cell research to be conducted under the newly awarded MSCRF Research Project is covered under that SCRO approval/exemption.

Award payments for Fellowship projects will be made as follows: 50% following execution of the grant agreement and submission of regulatory documentation, and 50% upon submission and approval of a Mid-term Report and the successful completion of approved milestones. In all cases, any unused funds must be returned to MSCRF at the end of the project.

POST AWARD REPORTING

Postdoctoral Fellowship Program awardees must submit the following reports to MSCRF:

a. **MSCRF Award Meeting** – Each applicant is encouraged to meet with the MSCRF Award Manager at least once, prior to the mid-term. This is to assist each awardee in understanding and meeting expectations for the program. This is also an opportunity for the awardee to share feedback, discuss ideas and ask for additional assistance. The applicant can reach out to MSCRF staff at mscrfinfo@tedcomd.com email to schedule this meeting.

b. **Mid-Term Project Reports** – Each applicant is required to submit the mid-term project report ("progress report") on MSCRF portal, the link to which will be provided in advance of the submission date by MSCRF. The progress report must include a description of project activities and outcomes to date, progress toward meeting mid-term milestones, an accounting of expenditures charged to the award, and information on any deliverables, such as products, public presentations, publications, intellectual property, and follow-on funding. This step is required before the report is approved and the remaining award payment disbursement is made.

c. **Final Reports -** Each applicant is required to submit the final report on MSCRF portal, the link to which will be provided in advance of the submission date by MSCRF. A final report must provide an overview of all activities undertaking during the course of the funded project, a description of the results of the project, the success with achieving the proposed milestones, jobs created/supported, information on any deliverables, such as products, public presentations, publications, intellectual property, and follow-on funding, as well as a full accounting of all expenditures charged to the award in a tabular format signed by the financial officer, and a formal closeout letter.

d. **Symposium presentation** - The MSCRF may conduct an in-State Annual Symposium to report to the scientific community and the public on the progress of the MSCRF program. All PIs must present, orally or in poster format, their on-going or completed MSCRF-funded research at each Annual Symposium, during and immediately following their Grant period.

e. **Publications, Patents & Subsequent Non-MSCRF Funding -** During the funding period and after it has ended, Awardees must continue to notify the Director of the MSCRF of any clinical application(s), publication(s), patent(s) and/or non-MSCRF funding and/or income (licensing fees, royalties, etc.) that result(s) in whole or in part from MSCRF-funded research and/or its commercialization. Such metrics demonstrate the success of the MSCRF Program and support the Commission's appeal for continued funding. To facilitate future communication, the PI and the Mentor shall ensure that their contact information is kept up to date.

COMPLIANCE

A Principal Investigator and Mentor not in compliance with the reporting obligations under the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Grant shall not be eligible to apply for continued or subsequent MSCRF funding.

AGENCY CONTACTS

- Inquiries about this RFA or other programmatic matters should be submitted by email to: mscrfinfo@tedcomd.com

- Inquiries regarding technical assistance with the application and/or reporting portal should be submitted by email to: mscrfinfo@tedcomd.com