



**The Interstate Alliance on Stem Cell Research
April 9-10, 2008**

The Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006 (the Act) established and funded a Stem Cell Research Fund to promote state-funded stem cell research and cures through grants and loans to public and private entities in the State. The fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to the State Finance and Procurement Article, and is funded with up to \$25 million a year.

According to the Act, the fund is administered by the Stem Cell Research Commission (Commission), an independent body whose members include the Attorney General or designee, patient advocates, individuals with experience in biotechnology, scientists from the University System of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University, and bioethicists.

FY 2007 - The Commission award \$13.1M in 24 research grants, 7 Investigator-Initiated and 17 Exploratory.

FY 2008 – The Commission has completed its evaluation of the 122 applications in response to its three official Requests for Applications (RFAs). The board of directors of the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO) reviewed the Commission’s recommendations and approved 62 projects for funding through the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF) under the Maryland Stem Cell Research Act of 2006. This year’s projects recommended for funding include:

- 11 applications for Investigator-Initiated Research Grants, these grants are designed for investigators with preliminary data supporting the grant application.
- 34 applications for Exploratory Research Grants, these grants are designed for investigators who are new to the stem cell field (new 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.
- 17 applications for Post-Doctoral Fellowship Research Grants these new grants are for post-doctoral fellows who wish to conduct basic and/or translational research on all types of human stem cells in Maryland.

FY 2009 – Maryland legislators approved \$19M in the State budget and up to \$1M from other funding sources. RFA for FY09 will be available in the fall.