



**The Interstate Alliance on Stem Cell Research
October 7-8, 2009**

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, an independent body whose members include patient advocates, individuals with experience in biotechnology, scientists from the University System of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University, bioethicists and the Attorney General or designee.

FY 2007 - The Commission awarded \$15M in 24 research grants (from 86 applications), 7 Investigator-Initiated and 17 Exploratory.

FY 2008 – The Commission awarded \$23M in 58 research grants (from 122 applications), 11 Investigator-Initiated and 32 Exploratory and adding 15 Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

FY 2009 – The Commission awarded \$18M (from 147 applications), 6 Investigator-Initiated and 32 Exploratory and adding 21 Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

FY2010 – our annual budget is \$12.4M.

Private sector financing: Since its inception the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund was aimed at developing the biotechnology at the state of Maryland, and it is one of the review criteria for all the awards. For-profit companies were not successful in competing for grants but we have been working to address that issue and encourage for-profit companies to apply as well as to collaborate with academic institutes. The Commission considered and approved some changes to the RFAs to encourage collaboration between for-profits and academic institutes, those include:

- Budget flexibility
- Finance preference at the Commission level

Facilities: The Maryland Stem Cell Commission through the MSCRF did not support facilities aside for small renovations that are allowed within the applications budget. However the Maryland Department of Business and Development (DBED), new Biotechnology Center will have grants to shared facility this coming year.

Collaboration: The State of Maryland and California Announced a collaboration to advance stem cell research between the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), the state's stem cell agency, and the Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO), which administers the Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF).

Maryland hosted the 2009 World Stem Cell Summit (WSCS) on Baltimore September 21-23, we had over 1,200 participants from 27 countries and 40 states and large media exposure.