REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

MSCRF Validation 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

The Maryland Stem Cell Research Fund (MSCRF) Validation Program was created to foster the transition of promising stem cell technologies having significant commercial potential from universities and research labs where they were discovered, to the commercial sector, where they can be developed into products and services that meet identified market needs. The Validation Program is designed to promote the commercialization of stem cell-based technologies for unmet medical needs. This is achieved through validation, market assessment, and facilitating the licensing of technologies to a commercial entity.

It is also the intent of the Program to foster collaborations between various schools, departments, and institutions within academic research organizations, and between public and private sectors. With a strategic goal to enhance collaboration between academic institutions and businesses in Maryland, the program provides an opportunity to access supplementary funding ("Second-tier Funding") for advancing technology development, particularly in cases where there is potential for collaboration between an academic institution and a commercial entity.

Important note: Revised and improved RFAs.

Funding applications have been modified to include revised and/or new submission fields. Please peruse the recently revised RFAs to be appropriately informed of the changes to prevent delays in the application submission process.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

To be eligible for the Validation Program, the applicant's PI must be a faculty member at a Maryland-based university or research institute (not a Federal Lab). Applications must advance the validation of technology:

a) that addresses an unmet medical need;

b) that has been disclosed to the applicant's Technology Transfer Office (TTO), and for which there is at least one pending patent application or an issued patent that is owned by a university/research institute in Maryland, either solely or jointly with a third party;

c) for which the underlying intellectual property is not currently optioned or licensed to a commercial entity;
d) for which there is some proof-of-concept data, but additional validation is required

The applicant may collaborate on the research project proposed in the Application for the Validation Program ("Research Project") with any Maryland-based institution, including any federal laboratory in Maryland. In the event of a federal laboratory collaboration, a portion of the funds could be allocated to a federal laboratory for carrying out studies outlined in the research project, but the applicant must discuss the nature of collaboration with MSCRF team in advance to ensure that the program requirements are satisfactorily met.

Each Application for the Validation Program shall have only one (1) Principal Investigator (PI), but may have multiple Co-PIs, Investigators and/or collaborators. PIs may participate as Investigators or collaborators in any number of MSCRF-funded Projects in the same funding cycle.

Any one candidate may apply to the MSCRF as the PI for only one new Award in any given cycle. Individuals from under-represented minorities and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Applicants who have received prior MSCRF funding may apply in a subsequent funding cycle on a similar or different topic, under the same or a different MSCRF funding mechanism.

AWARD INFORMATION

AVAILABLE FUNDS

The MSCRF is currently budgeted to commit up to $20.5 million, in aggregate, in FY 2024 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

Subject to meeting the Program requirements, an award not to exceed $250,000 may be made for a project. Funded Research Projects must be completed within **24 months** of the date of execution of the award. **Applicants should not expect approval of any no-cost extensions and should plan accordingly.**

The Program will allow universities to include facilities and administrative charges (i.e., indirect charges) of up to 15% of the primary budget of $230,000.

Up to an additional $10,000 of the Validation grant budget may be allocated by a qualifying university Tech Transfer Office (TTO) to pay for patent expenses related to the technology, which are incurred during the term of the award.

Up to an additional $10,000 may be requested for technical, commercialization, and regulatory assistance toward approval of a cell therapy product.

Therefore, the total maximum amount per award, including the patent costs and additional technical/regulatory assistance, is $250,000.

Note that the optional additional budget line-item funds requested and approved toward patent costs and/or technical/regulatory assistance will need to be documented by the applicant and verified by MSCRF during the mid-term report.

Because the nature and scope of the proposed Research Project will vary from Application to Application, the size and duration of Awards may also vary. Approved Research Projects may be funded at or below the requested/proposed amount for a number or reasons, including but not limited to potential reductions in State appropriations or funding otherwise available to MSCRF.

Research Project funding will be subject to the successful completion of a number of proposed Research Project milestones. Applicants should be aware that project funding could be terminated at any point during the term of the award if early Research Project data suggest that the technology will not be sufficient for the intended commercial application, or if the Research Project is not- in the determination of MSCRF- reasonably progressing as originally proposed.

Second-tier Funding: If the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) is in discussions with a potential commercial entity to further advance the Project/Technology and/or the underlying intellectual property towards commercialization through a collaboration, option, or licensing agreement, the award amount may be increased up to a maximum of $350,000 (referred to as "Second-tier Funding"). Second-tier Funding is designated for research activities within the State of Maryland, to be conducted at either a Maryland-based research institution or a business located in Maryland.

The applicant is required to furnish a letter of support/letter agreement, confirming the commercial entity's interest in advancing and commercializing the technology through the licensing of the technology and associated intellectual property. Furthermore, the applicant must submit a comprehensive research proposal, inclusive of milestones and budget allocations, detailing the activities intended to be carried out with the Second-tier Funding. The Second-tier Funding will be disbursed upon signing of an option/licensing agreement on the intellectual property directed to the technology, which must be signed no later than 4 months from the effective date of the Award.

Validation Program Awards will be made in the form of a grant.

CONTENT & FORMAT OF APPLICATION

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.

All Sections of the Application must be submitted through the TEDCO 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. The uploaded file must be limited to 80 megabytes (MB).

University applicants must obtain approval from their research/grants administration office and Technology Transfer Office before submitting an application.

APPLICATION COMPONENTS

The intent of the application is to provide enough information so a group of reviewers can sufficiently evaluate the scientific merit, the commercialization potential of a technology, and the value of the proposed research project ("Research Project") in advancing the technology toward commercialization.

Validation Program applications must include all of the following sections and address *EACH* of the criteria bulleted under the sections (Sections B through G are limited to 10 pages):

A. Cover page. One page limit. The applicant must include the following information:

- Title of the Research Project.
- The name of the PI and University/research lab that is applying for funding and owns the associated technology ("Technology").
- The total amount of funding requested broken down into direct and indirect costs.
- Total amount of Second-Tier Funding requested (if eligible), broken down into direct and indirect costs.
- Short (300 words) non-confidential summary of the Research Project. If awarded, this information becomes public. Do not include any confidential or proprietary information.
- 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.

B. Technology Description, Status, and Intellectual Property.

- Provide a detailed description of the Technology. The description should focus on how the Technology is unique/novel in its approach to solve an important problem relative to other approaches in the scientific literature and other products.
- Describe the status of the Technology's development – summarize the studies completed and the conclusions derived (to support how unique your technology/idea is; can be previously published data).
- Provide the proof-of -concept data demonstrating the Technology is likely to work as predicted.
- Summarize the intellectual property secured for the Technology including the scope of the pending application(s) and/or issued patents, their title, filing date, and jurisdictions where such patent rights are sought. Also, summarize strategies for strengthening the Technology's intellectual property portfolio, including a brief summary of the intellectual property landscape (e.g., the results of a patent search including a description of the closest prior art) should also be included. Applicants should collaborate with TTO to gather this information.

C. Application of Technology as a Product/Market Assessment (Commercial Relevance and Competition).

- Describe potential products or services that could be based on the Technology.
- Describe how these products will solve a problem in the market and describe the overall importance of solving that problem.
- Include a description of the value that these products will bring to customers – cost savings, time savings, convenience, improved outcomes, etc.
- Outline a general description of the applicant's competitive advantages over competing products and services.

D. Commercialization Strategy and Risk Assessment.

- Provide a detailed overview of the strategy, overall steps/milestones needed to commercialize the Technology (during and **beyond** the MSCRF funding) including how long it will take and how much it will cost to achieve each milestone.
- Describe the best approach and rationale for commercialization, whether through licensing to an established company or licensing to a newly formed spin-off for the Technology. Include details on the level of interest expressed by potential commercial collaborator(s) in the Technology (if available, provide supporting letters from commercial collaborator and/or investors). Applicants should collaborate with the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) to gather this information. To be eligible for Second-Tier Funding, the applicant must obtain a letter from the TTO confirming ongoing discussions with a commercial partner regarding the commercialization of the Technology (to be included in the Appendix)
- Describe the major risks of failure (beyond the proposed Research Project, e.g., Technology risk, market risk, etc.), along with the applicant's plans to manage that risk, i.e., what would be done if the proposed commercialization approach was not successful.

E. Research Project Description and Design, Milestones, and Detailed Budget/Justification.

- Include a detailed summary of the Research Project and the anticipated milestones and a clear timeline (**remember, this is not discovery – this is validating your findings for commercial feasibility**). Indicate which milestones will be completed by the applicant's mid-term presentation (about 9 months into the Research Project) and throughout.
- A description of the objectives of the Research Project, research strategy and design, initial Proof-of-concept data in support of the Research Project (Significance, Specific Aims, Rationale, and Approach
- Describe how each of the milestones leads to a clear demonstration or further validation of the technology for the proposed commercial purpose and/or significantly advances the Technology along the commercialization pathway. Milestones must be quantifiable and measurable so it will be clear whether or not they have been successfully met.
- A detailed budget of the costs required to conduct the Research Project should be provided in the general format provided below.
- A justification for all of the Research Project costs should be provided. Any changes to the approved budget (greater than +\- 10%) must be submitted in writing to MSCRF for prior approval.
- International travel is not an eligible expense. Domestic travel will be closely scrutinized and must be justified as critical to the project.
- Second-tier Funding: If applicable, up to an additional 4 pages (not to be counted toward the 15-page limit of the application) may be included to provide a description of each milestone and budget for the research/work to be performed with this additional funding. Provide individual documentation for each of the aforementioned details when applying for access to Second-tier Funding.

The Validation Program budget should be formatted in tabular form, and each line item should be classified into one of the following categories: Personnel – Salaries, Personnel- Fringe benefits, Equipment, Materials & Supplies, Contracts, Other Direct Costs, and Indirect Costs, which should be indicated in the budget. For the optional additional line items of patent costs or technical/commercialization/regulatory assistance, further classifications may be provided.

F. Data Sharing and Management Strategy: 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.

G. Resubmissions - *Limited to one (1) page*

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.

H. Appendix - Additional 13 pages limit (upload in the same file as the application)

In addition, applications must include the following supplemental materials. These pages are counted as part of the maximum 24 pages total (or a maximum of 28 pages if applying for Second-tier Funding):

a. A signed letter from the University's technology transfer office indicating their approval of the project, certifying the Technology's disclosure reference number and the status of the intellectual property described in Section 'B.' of the Initial Application.
b. Recommendation/collaboration letters supporting and justifying the Research Project and aims endpoints.
c. Biosketches of the team, limited to 2 pages each.
d. Supporting materials. Do not include information that should be in the 11-page limit of the proposal. References can be included here.
e. If applying for Second-tier Funding: Documentation from TTO and/or a copy of Letter Agreement/Letter of Intent from a commercial partner expressing its interest in commercialization of the Technology/intellectual property.

Web form Information

In addition, applicants must complete all the web form information in the online system as early as possible to avoid unexpected delays. This information includes:

- Short Abstract (maximum 300 words). If awarded, this information becomes public. Do not include any confidential or proprietary information.
- A bioethics section (maximum 250 words)
- Impact on biotechnology in Maryland statement (maximum 250 words)
  Briefly describe the potential of this application to impact the biotechnology sector in the state of Maryland. Some examples may include IP that may be licensed or lead to commercialization, existing or proposed collaborations, creation of new jobs, and workforce development.

Include an *updated* letter from the Qualifying University's technology transfer office indicating any current activity or updates to tech transfer activities.

APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Application information will be available electronically on the MSCRF Web site (see www.mscrf.org).

SUBMISSION DEADLINES & REVIEW DATES

- **Application Submission Deadline**: January 22, 2024, by 5:00 p.m.
- **Peer Review Date(s) and presentation by the applicant:** 1st week of April 2024
- **Commission Review Date(s) and announcement of Awards:** May 2024

METHODS OF SUBMISSION

Principal Investigators are encouraged to register in the TEDCO online submission system at least one month before the Application Submission Deadline. Grant Applications must be submitted through the TEDCO online submission system by January 22, 2024, no later than 5:00 p.m. Late submissions will not be considered and the application will be withdrawn. Any sections or page that exceeds in words or length the limit stated in the RFA will not be reviewed. Do not use the appendix to circumvent any page limits either. Any such information provided will not be reviewed.

REVIEW INFORMATION

ELIGIBILITY AND COMPLIANCE REVIEW:

MSCRF will assess whether the application meets the eligibility requirements under this program, as specified in this RFA. If MSCRF determines, in its sole discretion, that an application does not meet the eligibility requirements of the program or that the submitted application is late, incomplete or contains false or inaccurate information, MSCRF will reject the application without further consideration and the applicant will be so notified.

A complete submission (all sections) cannot exceed a total of 25 pages, 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 may bring Applications scoring below the threshold to the Review Meeting under special circumstances, which shall be determined at the sole discretion of MSCRF. All Applications will be ranked according to their final scores and the top-scoring applications will be recommended to the Commission, which will have the final authority to approve funding.

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 and the applicant's ability to address each criterion listed in the section. **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.**

Other criteria that will be considered by the reviewers are the novelty of the Technology and the approach to solving a problem (meeting a market need), the strength of the Technology's competitive advantage (intellectual property position), the likelihood that the Technology will be licensed for commercialization, the market/commercialization opportunity represented by the project, and the team's ability to carry out the project. Be sure to address the following areas:

- **Technology Description, Status, and Intellectual Property:** Is there a detailed description of the associated Technology? The description should focus on how the Technology is unique/novel in its approach to solving an important commercial/clinical problem relative to other approaches in the scientific literature and other products. Is there a description of the status of the Technology's development -– including the studies completed and the conclusions derived? Is there a summary of the Proof-of- Concept data? Is there a description of the intellectual property secured for the Technology and strategies for strengthening the Technology's intellectual property portfolio? Is there a summary of the intellectual property landscape (e.g., the results of a patent search)?
- **Application of Technology as a Product/Market Assessment:** Were potential commercial products or services that could be based on the technology clearly described? Is there a description of how these products or services will solve a problem in the market and is there a description of the overall importance of solving those problems? Is there a description of the value that these products will bring to customers (life-saving, cost savings, time savings, convenience, improved outcomes, etc.)? Is there a description of how the products will make it to market and a brief summary of the size of the market opportunity that they represent? Is there an outline or a general description of the technological competitive advantages over competing products, companies, and services?
- **Research Project Description, Milestones, and Detailed Budget/Justification:** Is there a detailed summary of the proposed project and the anticipated milestones? Are the conceptual or clinical framework, design, methods, and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, well-reasoned, and appropriate to the aims of the Project? Is relevant literature appropriately referenced? Are anticipated results discussed and justified? Are potential problem areas and alternative approaches addressed? Are the experiments as designed likely to significantly advance the technology? Is there a description of how each of the milestones leads to a clear demonstration or validation of the technology for the proposed commercial purpose and/or significantly advances the technology along the commercialization pathway, and is it justified? Are the milestones quantifiable and measurable for determination of success? Is a detailed budget of the costs required to conduct the project provided?
- **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 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 animal subjects are to be used, what measures are taken to comply with IACUC guidelines?

In addition to the criteria above, ensure the following areas are addressed:

- **Significance:** Does this Research Project address an important scientific problem relevant to human stem cells? What is the relationship between the proposed project and the etiology, prevention, diagnosis or treatment of human diseases or conditions? If the aims of the Application are achieved,

how will this move you closer to commercial or clinical practice and treatment of human diseases or conditions?

- **Approach:** Is there adequate Proof-of- Concept data to support the Research Project? Are the conceptual or clinical 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 and justified? Does the applicant acknowledge potential problem areas and consider alternative tactics? Are the experiments as designed likely to significantly advance the technology?
- **Translation Potential and Plan**: Does the Application include strong commercial or clinical components? Is there a clear plan for translating results to the commercial market? Will the Research Project lead to new medical therapies or test new therapies in patients?

SCORING:

A Scientific Peer Review Committee will review all Applications and rank them based on scientific merit. Similar to the NIH, a 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.

Applicants Selected for Review: All Validation applicants who receive a high enough preliminary score will move on to the full committee review and will be required to present **in person** at the MSCRF Peer Review Meetings. Importantly, requests for virtual attendance will not be considered.

- The PI listed on the Validation Application must plan to present on the stated review dates. Other team members may attend; however, the PI must attend.
- All presentations will be scheduled as part of the standing MSCRF review days listed below. Due to the number of applications on any given review day, presentation times will be assigned by MSCRF.
- The PI will need to hold the review day open until the time is assigned. This may be confirmed as close as a week before the review day, so PIs will need to remain flexible during this process. **Applicants should plan for and secure the week of April 1st for the in-person presentation.**
- **The Validation applicant will be required to submit his/her presentation deck to MSCRF one week in advance of the peer review meeting.**
- Applicants will be allotted a 15-minute timed presentation, followed by up to 20 minutes for Q&A. Following are the required slides for the presentation:

    - Title slide
    - What is the Problem, Significance?
    - What is the Solution, Approach?
        - Technology Outline
        - Intellectual Property - summary of the scope of the pending and issued claims, filing date and jurisdiction sought for intellectual property protection.
    - Target Market?
        - Market Segmentation Analysis (Analysis of what group of consumers/patients your Technology/product will be targeted to)
        - Competition (competing products that are either in development and/or in market)
    - Project Description, Milestones
    - Detailed Budget/Justification

- Cost Projections
- Financing Needed for the MSCRF Project
- Follow-on Financing for the Next Steps, Beyond MSCRF

- Translation Potential and Plan
  - Timeline and Costs
  - Risks and Mitigation Plan
- Team
  - Current team
  - Partners
  - Advisors

After the presentation of the preliminary scores and discussion of applications at the MSCRF Peer Review Committee Meeting, applications will receive a final score based on an average of all the overall scores provided by the Committee Members.

Applications will be ranked by average final score and submitted to the MD Stem Cell Research Commission ("Commission") for review and final approval.

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.

AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

NOTIFICATION

The Applicant 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.

CLOSING AND AWARD PAYMENTS:

Once the NOA has been sent, Applicants will be asked to execute a grant agreement. The grant agreement will detail the conditions of the award and it will include an agreed-upon number of mid-term and final milestones for each project as set forth in the Application. The PI must provide as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days from the date the NOA was made, the following regulatory documents:

- Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval or exemption with the Applicant's name, project title, and expiration date.
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval if animal work is to be conducted, with the Applicant's name, project title, and expiration date.
- Stem Cell Research Committee (SCRO) approval or exemption in accordance with your institutional guidelines with the Applicant's name, project title, and expiration date.

Award payments for Validation Program grants will be made as follows: 25% following execution of the grant agreement and compliance documents (i.e., IRB, IACUC, SCRO), 50% upon submission and approval of a Mid-term Report and the successful completion of approved milestones, and 25% upon submission and approval of a Final Report.

The disbursement of the Second-tier Funding award will occur upon the successful execution of the intellectual property (IP) option or licensing agreement between the PI's institution and the commercial collaborator. In all cases, any unused funds must be returned to MSCRF.

POST AWARD REPORTING

Validation Program awardees must submit the following reports to the MSCRF:

a. **Award Manager Meeting** – Each applicant is required 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.

b. **Mid-Project Reports -** All PIs are expected to present in person or virtually for the mid-term review. Details will be sent approximately one month prior to the mid-term of the project. The report shall consist of a PowerPoint presentation to MSCRF, which must include a description of project activities and results to date, the progress toward meeting mid-term milestones, an accounting of expenditures charged to the award, and details on the proposed Commercialization Plan and budget; update on IP and commercialization activities as provided by the TTO.

c. **Final Report -** Within forty-five (45) days after the end of the overall Grant period, PIs must file their Final Reports, describing the research conducted and the results of this research. This Final Report shall include:

   i. A Scientific Report, which provides an overview of all activities undertaken during the course of the funded project, a description of the results of the project, the impact on commercialization, and the success with achieving the proposed milestones;

   ii. A Financial Report with full accounting of all expenditures charged to the award in a tabular format signed by the financial officer; and

   iii. A formal closeout letter prepared and signed by the ORA.

   iv. **Commercialization Planning** Includes conducting a commercial opportunity and risk assessment for the Technology and developing and drafting a detailed commercialization and go-to-market plan (**a specific deliverable for the Validation Program**) that includes a plan for the specific steps required to complete the development of a product, its manufacture, regulatory approvals, and its execution. The Commercialization Plan should include:

   - A clear market assessment and marketing strategy;
   - The team, and their biographical information;
   - A viable revenue model; and
   - A strategy for financing the plan.

   MSCRF recognizes the challenges associated with developing a commercialization strategy for an early-stage technology and understands that any such strategy is likely to change during the course of development of a commercial product. Nevertheless, as a commercialization program, the goal of MSCRF is to ensure that there is at least one viable pathway toward commercialization for a technology and that such a pathway has been carefully considered and can be clearly described by the applicant.

   The execution of any subcontracts and joint arrangements included as part of an application are ultimately the responsibility of the Institution of the Applicant. Each entity involved in the proposed project set forth in the submitted application is expected to meet the timelines and milestones, as submitted by the PI, who will be held accountable as part of the mid-term and final report review.

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.

AGENCY CONTACTS

Inquiries about this RFA must be submitted by email to: mscrfinfo@tedcomd.com