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## Maryland, California team on stem cell research

Baltimore Business Journal - by [Julekha Dash](#) Staff

Maryland stem cell researchers are teaming up with their counterparts in California to form a new research collaboration state officials hope will lead to more grant money and scientific breakthroughs.

Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley announced the new collaboration between the **Maryland Technology Development Corp.** (TEDCO) and the **California Institute for Regenerative Medicine** Monday morning at the World Stem Cell Summit in Baltimore. The conference has attracted 1,200 scientists from 27 countries who are meeting through Wednesday at the **Baltimore Convention Center**.

The new partnership will allow researchers in both states to match their expertise in scientific areas that will hopefully result in better grant proposals. California's stem cell research funding agency has struck similar partnerships with the **German Federal Ministry of Education and Research**, the **Cancer Stem Cell Consortium of Canada**, the state of Victoria in Australia, and agencies in Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom.

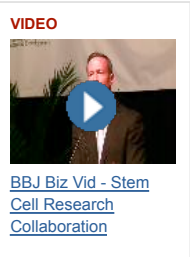
**The Genetics Policy Institute**, which is hosting the conference, presented O'Malley with the National Leadership Award for funding stem cell research even during challenging economic times.

Past recipients of the award include Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle and Michael J. Fox, the actor who has Parkinson's disease and has been a leading advocate of stem cell research.

Maryland has invested \$56 million over the three years in stem cell research, which has resulted in 141 stem cell research grants. At the conference, O'Malley also touted his Bio 2020 initiative, a plan to pump \$1.3 billion of state money over the next decade into programs that beef up Maryland's biotech business.

"The next great discovery may not come overnight, but all of us are here because we believe in progress," O'Malley said.

He also took a jab at the Bush administration for its ban on federal funding for embryonic stem cell research and praised President Barack Obama for lifting the funding ban this year.



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