



Consortium Announces \$2.9-Million NIH Grant to Advance Work on Ebola Virus Diagnostic Tests

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Orleans, June 27, 2014 - Autoimmune Technologies LLC, a New Orleans biomedical company, today announced the award of a three-year, \$2.9 million Phase II SBIR grant by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to advance the development of diagnostic tests for Ebola fever virus. The prime grant award was made to Corgenix Medical Corporation, and Autoimmune and other members of the Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Consortium are subawardees. Autoimmune will produce monoclonal antibodies and perform other work for the project under a subaward totaling approximately \$650 thousand over three years.

The [Viral Hemorrhagic Fever Consortium](http://www.vhfc.org) (VHFC, www.vhfc.org) is a partnership of research institutes and commercial companies whose mission is to promote global health and safety by creating new products to diagnose, treat, and significantly reduce the incidence and mortality rate of viral hemorrhagic fevers. The VHFC is partially funded by NIAID and is led by Dr. Robert F. Garry of the Tulane University School of Medicine. In addition to Tulane, Autoimmune and Corgenix, the VHFC partners include Harvard University/The Broad Institute, Kenema Government General Hospital, Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital, The Scripps Research Institute, the University of Texas Medical Branch, Université de Lausanne, Zalgen Labs LLC, and other partners in West Africa.

Since 2010 the VHFC has been the world leader in the development of robust new diagnostic tests for Lassa fever virus in Sierra Leone and Nigeria. A two-year [Phase I SBIR Ebola grant](#) awarded to Corgenix and Autoimmune preceded the current Phase II grant, and the initial grant led to important advances in Ebola testing. Under the current grant, antibody capture assays and antigen capture assays for a number of Ebola proteins will be further developed and placed into ELISA and point-of-care testing formats, studied for sensitivity and specificity, and then finalized for use in laboratories and in the field. The recent efforts of a great many individuals and health organizations to contain the devastating outbreak of Ebola virus disease now under way in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia have made the critical need for rapid and robust Ebola diagnostic tests frighteningly clear.

Autoimmune Technologies was founded in 1995 to license and commercialize medical technology from Tulane. The company holds various exclusive and collaborative worldwide licenses from Tulane to develop diagnostics, drugs and vaccines using certain Tulane technologies.

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