



NIH AWARDS FAST-TRACK SBIR GRANT TO AUTOIMMUNE TECHNOLOGIES TO STUDY NEW INFLUENZA DRUG CANDIDATE

In Animal Studies, Peptide Drug Prevents Flu Virus from Infecting Its Target Cells

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Orleans, June 2, 2009 - Autoimmune Technologies LLC, a New Orleans biomedical company, today announced that it has been awarded a three-year SBIR Phase I/Phase II Fast-Track grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the National Institutes of Health (NIH/NIAID). The \$3.9-million grant, entitled "Peptide Inhibitors of Influenza Entry - FAST TRACK," will support work to further the development of Flufirvitide-3, the company's remarkably effective peptide entry inhibitor. The Tulane University School of Medicine and the Xavier University of Louisiana College of Pharmacy are subawardees under the grant.

Previous studies have shown that Flufirvitide-3 blocks infection by different strains of influenza A virus of the H1, H3 and H5 subtypes as well as by influenza B viruses. Flufirvitide-3 uses a rationally designed peptide which has been found to potently inhibit signs of influenza in animals and appears to be a good candidate for topical application as an influenza drug in humans. The peptide acts on the hemagglutinin protein on the surface of the viral particles to disable the virus and prevent it from entering and infecting the epithelial cells in the respiratory tract of the potential host.

The scope of work for this award includes preclinical FDA IND-enabling activities that can lead to human clinical trials. The specific goals of the grant include optimizing manufacturing, formulation, and delivery methods for the new drug candidate and the production of enough drug product to conduct pharmacokinetic, bioavailability, toxicology and non-clinical safety profile studies.

Autoimmune Technologies is a privately held Louisiana limited liability company founded in 1995. In addition to developing its own technologies, Autoimmune has licensed several breakthrough discoveries made at Tulane University. For more information, please contact Michael D. Charbonnet, CEO, Autoimmune Technologies LLC, 1010 Common Street, Suite 1705, New Orleans 70112, (504) 529-9944.

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