Autoimmune Technologies LLC

Applied Biomedical Science

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Awards MERS/SARS Coronavirus Drug Research Grant to Autoimmune Technologies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Orleans, June 24, 2014 - Autoimmune Technologies LLC, a New Orleans biomedical company, announced today that it has won a Phase I SBIR grant to continue testing its entry-inhibiting peptide drug candidate CSW-1 against the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) virus, the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus, and other viruses in the coronavirus family. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) awarded the grant, which will provide $225,000 in funding over a one-year term. Successful outcome of the work being funded by the grant could lead to a new drug to treat coronavirus infections.

As is the case with Autoimmune's other drug candidates, CSW-1 works by keeping the virus particles from penetrating and infecting their target cells. The active ingredient in all of Autoimmune's drugs is a small protein called a peptide. Researchers at Tulane University's School of Medicine have developed a technique through which a unique peptide can be designed to neutralize a specific virus and prevent the virus from causing infection. In addition to the MERS and SARS viruses, proprietary peptides designed in this way have exhibited high potency against Influenza A, Influenza B, the West Nile, Hepatitis C, Dengue fever and Ebola fever viruses, and other viruses.

The Company believes that peptide inhibitors of viral entry represent an important new frontier in the development of effective antiviral drugs for both human and veterinary use. The relatively large size of peptides as compared to the small chemical molecules which are the active ingredients in most drugs can give peptides a functionality that is beyond the capabilities of ordinary drugs.

Autoimmune Technologies was founded in 1995 to license and commercialize medical technology from Tulane. The company holds an exclusive worldwide license from Tulane to develop drugs and vaccines using the entry-inhibiting-peptide technology.

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