

Abzyme Awarded Highly Competitive National Institutes of Health Phase II SBIR Grant

Royersford, PA, September 01, 2016. Abzyme Therapeutics LLC, a biotech company focused on developing antibodies for diagnostic and therapeutic application, has been awarded a \$1,500,000 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to continue application of an *in vitro* single domain camelid VHH antibody generation platform and advance developed VHH antibodies into clinical trials.

The NIH SBIR program is a highly competitive program for early stage small businesses that are seeking to commercialize innovative biomedical technologies. The program helps small businesses participate in federal research and development, develop life-saving technologies, and create jobs. After successfully completing Phase I late last year, Abzyme has demonstrated the feasibility of its antibody development platform with self-diversifying antibody libraries in generating highly specific VHH antibodies to influenza H5N1 neuraminidase. Phase II Abzyme's research will focus on investigation of the therapeutic efficacy of developed H5N1 neuraminidase antibodies in animal models challenged with live viruses as well as generation of novel T-cell engaging antibodies for cancer treatment.

Unique to Abzyme is its proprietary eukaryotic *in vitro* antibody discovery/optimization platform based on yeast display self-diversifying libraries, rapid target-directed antibody maturation, and a FACS single cell sorting approach to identify desired antibodies. These combined technologies enable Abzyme Therapeutics to shorten typical monoclonal antibody development/optimization times from 4.5 – 6 months to 6 – 10 weeks. Abzyme's antibody discovery platform incorporates the ability to select for key properties such as epitopic diversity, binding affinity, expressibility, solubility, developability, broad-reactivity and target-specificity into real-time screening.

"We are extremely pleased to be recognized with this highly competitive award from the NIH and are grateful for the continued support towards our mission of developing therapeutic antibodies for treatment of human diseases" said Dr. Tran, CEO and co-founder of Abzyme. "This SBIR grant plays a vital role in expanding our antibody development capabilities".

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