

## **Abzyme Awarded Highly Competitive National Institutes of Health SBIR Grant for Pemphigus Treatment**

**Royersford, PA, October 20, 2019.** Abzyme Therapeutics LLC, a biotech company focused on developing antibodies for diagnostic and therapeutic application, has been awarded a \$280,352 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I Grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop pemphigus-specific T cell engagers for pemphigus targeted immunotherapy. The engagers are designed to direct host T-cells to eliminate only pathological pemphigus-specific autoantibody-producing B cells, while sparing normal antibody-producing B cells.

The NIH SBIR program is a highly competitive program for small businesses that seek to commercialize innovative technologies with biomedical applications. The program helps small businesses participate in federal research and development, develop life-saving technologies, and create jobs. Abzyme will use its innovative antibody development and engineering platforms to produce multispecific antibodies capable of directing the patient's T-cells to seek and eliminate pathological pemphigus-specific antibody-producing B cells.

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

### **About Abzyme Therapeutics:**

Abzyme Therapeutics is a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing modular single domain VHH antibody fragments for immunotherapy using proprietary antibody generation platforms. Unique to Abzyme is its proprietary and highly engineered eukaryotic in vitro antibody discovery/optimization platform based on yeast display self-diversifying libraries, rapid target-directed antibody affinity maturation in combination with a FACS single cell sorting approach to identify desired antibodies. Abzyme's modular antibody discovery platform incorporates a real-time screening ability to select for key properties such as epitopic diversity, binding affinity, expressibility, solubility, developability, broad-reactivity and target-specificity.

Today, the Company has over 60 proprietary and partnered programs in development in therapeutic and diagnostic areas including infectious diseases, immuno-oncology, ophthalmology, inflammation and central nervous system disorders.

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