

Kucera Pharmaceutical Company

Demonstrates the availability of funding from a variety of sources

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. -- The Kucera Pharmaceutical Company was recently awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH, www.nih.gov) to continue research and development on the company's novel anti-HIV compound, KPC-2.

"The Phase I SBIR grant will support the completion of key laboratory studies and the scale-up synthesis of KPC-2 for future animal studies," said Dr. Ronald Fleming, the Principal Investigator of the grant and Kucera's Chief Scientific Officer.



Ronald Fleming

Dr. Louis Kucera, Professor of Microbiology and Immunology at Wake Forest University School of Medicine and co-investigator on the SBIR grant, said, "This prestigious award means we can accelerate our antiviral research with the lead compound, KPC-2, toward future use in the HIV/AIDS clinic."

"Use the SBTDC as efficiently as possible to learn about the availability of and how to seek money in grant form.

Being well trained and well qualified up front leads to success".

***Russ Read, CEO
Kucera Pharmaceutical Co.***

Both US congressmen representing the Winston-Salem area said Kucera's federal grant is significant.

"Strengthening an important economic force in our community, Kucera is a great example of an innovative business advancing medical research right here in our own (Piedmont Triad) Research Park," said Rep. Richard Burr (R-5th). "With this federal assistance, Kucera's dedicated private researchers will be one step closer to bringing this important drug to those who need it."



Louis Kucera

Congressman Mel Watt (D-12th) added, "I am pleased that Kucera Pharmaceutical Company was awarded this important grant. It will help Kucera fund their important HIV research that is so essential to finding a cure for this disease."

Kucera's Chief Executive Officer Russ H. Read said the SBIR grant also boosts the reputation of the Piedmont Triad region's emerging biotechnology cluster.

We have also submitted other SBIRs but the main SBIR we are awaiting right now is a Phase II valued at \$1.9M to further the development of KPC-2. Kucera is also the recipient of two NC STAR grants and one bridge funding loan from NCBC.

Kucera Pharmaceutical Co. (www.kucerapharma.com), a 2001 spin-off of Wake Forest University Health Sciences and the School of Pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has in development patented small molecules capable of acting as novel anti-viral therapies. It also has anti-cancer agents in development. Kucera is headquartered at the Piedmont Triad Research Park (www.ptrip.org) in downtown Winston-Salem and has laboratories at the North Carolina Technological Development Authority, Inc., Life Science Center in Durham.

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