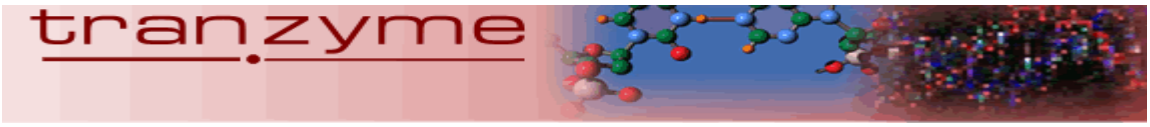
North Carolina SBIR/STTR Success



Tranzyme Receives $300,000 in STTR/SBIR Grants from National Institutes of Health for Company's Drug Discovery Programs

Tranzyme, Inc., located in Research Triangle Park, NC, received two grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) totaling approximately $300,000. The first is a Phase I Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) award from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). The second grant is a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) award from the National Institute on Aging.

Tranzyme will use the funding from the Phase I STTR to validate a multi-reporter cell-based assay that is sensitive to the entry of HIV-1. This novel assay enables efficient and accurate measurement of the effects of neutralizing antibodies on the HIV virus. The long-term goal of the research is to develop a vaccine that is able to elicit a potent antibody response against HIV. Development of such a vaccine has not been possible because of significant limitations in technologies used for detecting neutralizing antibodies.

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The Phase I SBIR will be used for the development of novel neuronal cell-based assays and methods for the validation of genes that modulate apoptosis. These assays will then be used to guide the discovery of therapeutics for diseases of the neurosensory system, including the eye, the ear, and the brain.

Tranzyme is a drug discovery and development company with technologies that integrate high-quality functional biology into all phases of the drug discovery process. Tranzyme leverages its technologies for the discovery of novel therapeutics for the treatment of diseases associated with the neurosensory system (the eye, ear, and the brain). In addition, Tranzyme is developing novel and sophisticated cell-based assays for research and drug discovery for the treatment of diseases such as AIDS, Alzheimer's disease and Cystic Fibrosis. To date, Tranzyme has entered into a dozen strategic partnerships worldwide.

Tranzyme plans to apply for additional Phase II awards following validation of its assays. Future NIH funding will be a critical impetus driving the discovery of new therapeutics. "We will seek an additional $1.5 to 2.0 million in Phase II support from NIH," said Vipin K. Garg, Ph.D., President and CEO of Tranzyme. "The support provided by the SBTDC such as their internship program has been very helpful in defining the market and competition. We plan to continue to rely on SBTDC during the Phase II application process."

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