

MASSACHUSETTS LIFE SCIENCES CENTER



Investing in the State of Innovation



Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and international partners announce new grants through International Collaborative Industry Program

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Waltham, MA – The [Massachusetts Life Sciences Center](#) (MLSC) and six international partner agencies today announced the second round of grants through the MLSC's International Collaborative Industry Program (ICIP). Four new projects have been awarded funding through the current round of the program.

The creation of ICIP stemmed from the desire of Massachusetts life sciences companies to seek global partnerships in order to jointly solve difficult R&D challenges and ultimately deliver new treatments and cures intended for commercialization. Today the MLSC and partner regions announced four collaboration projects that demonstrated innovative and collaborative R&D and will be receiving grant awards of \$400,000 each from the MLSC, with matching funds coming from sister agencies in the partner regions. The awarded projects involve collaboration between companies in Massachusetts and companies in Quebec, Canada, the Medicin Valley region of Denmark and Sweden; the Alsace region of France; and the State of Victoria in Australia.

"As the global leader in life sciences, Massachusetts has a unique ability to work with other regions of the world to improve health care through innovation," said Governor Charlie Baker. "I'm excited to see the results and the impact of these international collaborations."

Eligible projects for ICIP consist of one company in Massachusetts partnered with a company from one of the six international partner regions. International partners will receive funding from an agency in their own geography. The program enables companies within the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, medical device, diagnostics and bioinformatics sectors to submit project applications.

The four projects selected to receive funding through the second round of the ICIP program are as follows:

Kew Group (Located in Cambridge, MA) in partnership with DiaTech Oncology in Quebec, Canada

MLSC Grant: \$400,000

This collaboration is focused on the development of innovative strategies to provide both functional (in vitro chemosensitivity) and genomic (DNA sequence-based) information to cancer patients and their oncologists, so that optimal combination therapeutic decisions can be made in a timely fashion. This project creates synergies in cancer diagnostics that capitalize on the strengths of each individual company.

Lantern Pharma (Located in Cambridge, MA) in partnership with Oncology Venture in Medicon Valley, Denmark.

MLSC Grant: \$400,000

These companies will conduct an early clinical trial using Iroflufen (developed by Lantern Pharma) to treat prostate cancer, in selected patients based on genetic analysis of tumor samples (conducted by Oncology Venture), which identifies the patients most likely to respond to Iroflufen. The outcome may lead to improved treatment for cancer patients, who otherwise have limited treatment options.

Q-State Biosciences (Located in Cambridge, MA) in partnership with Anagenesis Biotechnologies in Alsace, France

MLSC Grant: \$400,000

This collaboration will involve development of a platform to screen for drugs to treat Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), one of the most prevalent inherited diseases in young males. The companies will use a new detection system developed by Q-State to modify novel cells derived from Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy muscle, developed by Anagenesis. The project will build on Anagenesis' expertise in induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived skeletal muscle cells and DMD models, and on Q-State Biosciences' all-optical, non-invasive recordings of electrophysiological parameters.

Triton Systems Inc. (Located in Chelmsford, MA) in partnership with Grey Innovation in Victoria, Australia

MLSC Grant: \$400,000

For this collaboration, the team will combine Grey Innovation's non-invasive wrist-worn hypoglycemia detection device and Triton's mobile disease management solution to develop an m-Health system for monitoring and managing otherwise potentially fatal hypoglycemic events in Type-1/Type-2 diabetes. The system will ensure personal health privacy and improve patient compliance and outcomes.

In all cases, funding from the MLSC will be supplemented by funding from the partner agencies, and the companies involved with each collaboration.

"In Massachusetts we believe that collaboration is essential to both breakthrough technology and economic growth in the life sciences," said Susan Windham-Bannister, Ph.D., President & CEO of the MLSC. "The international collaborative projects that we are announcing today with our regional partners reflect that belief. The MLSC is pleased to be jointly funding the development of new health technologies that benefit the global community and grow jobs in the life sciences sectors."

"We are happy to collaborate with Anagenesis Biosciences to apply Q-State Biosciences technology to disorders of muscle and create a unique model system to identify drugs that can address the devastation of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy" said Adam Cohen, Q-State Biosciences co-founder.

"Medicon Valley joined the ICIP program a year ago and has ever since experienced a huge interest in new partnerships from our life science companies. We are very proud to have a collaboration project amongst the recipients of the ICIP grants this year and look forward to expanding our network with Massachusetts even further in the future," said Morten Mølgaard Jensen, CEO of Copenhagen Bio Science Park, lead partner in Medicon Valley.

"We are delighted that the start-up Anagenesis, a very active member of Alsace BioValley cluster, has been awarded for the MLSC program," said Didier Frommweiler, Alsace BioValley's CEO. "This new success confirms for the 2nd time the excellence of young innovative Alsatian Health companies on the international level."

"Thanks to our collaboration with MLSC, we are very pleased to support business to business collaborations between Quebec and Massachusetts," said Dr. Diane Gosselin, President and CEO of CQDM. "The project between DiaTech Oncology in Montreal and Kew Group in Cambridge will allow both companies to leverage their complementary expertise to develop better diagnostic tools for cancer. We are also very excited to collaborate with Exactis Innovation in Quebec on this project. We also thank the Quebec government for making this possible."

For more information about ICIP, visit www.masslifesciences.com/icip.html or email icip@masslifesciences.com.

About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, research, development and commercialization. The MLSC is charged with implementing a 10-year, \$1-billion, state-funded investment initiative. These investments create jobs and support advances that improve health and well-being. The MLSC offers the nation's most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs targeted to the life sciences ecosystem. These programs propel the growth that has made Massachusetts the global leader in life sciences. The MLSC creates new models for collaboration and partners with organizations, both public and private, around the world to promote innovation in the life sciences. For more information, visit www.masslifesciences.com.

About the International Collaborative Industry Program (ICIP)

The MLSC's International Collaborative Industry Program (ICIP) seeks to promote collaboration and idea exchange between life sciences companies around the world, as well as to stimulate the development of new products or processes intended for commercialization. ICIP accepts project proposals rooted in the life sciences: Biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostics and bioinformatics. Projects sponsored together by a Massachusetts life sciences company and a company from one of the participating international partner regions are eligible to apply for joint funding from the MLSC and the respective international partner agency.

About CQDM

CQDM is a pharma-based consortium active in pre-competitive research whose mission is to fund the development of innovative tools and technologies to accelerate drug discovery. Unique in the world, CQDM's business model is based on a collaborative approach where all stakeholders share the costs of biopharmaceutical research and benefit from its results. CQDM also provides a common meeting ground where academia, governments, and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries converge to address numerous complex medical challenges. CQDM receives financial support from Merck, Pfizer Canada, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly Canada, Janssen, Novartis Pharma Canada, Sanofi Canada, as well as from Quebec's Ministry of Economy, Innovation and Exports (MEIE) and from the Government of Canada under the Business-Led Networks of Centres of Excellence Program (BL-NCE). For more information, visit us at www.cqdm.org.

About Medicon Valley

Medicon Valley is a hub of life science activities which spans three regions in Eastern Denmark and South-Western Sweden. The Capital Region of Denmark is a public authority headed by democratically elected politicians that manages hospitals, performs research and services for the disabled and undertakes environmental duties, and collaborates with municipalities and the business community on developments concerning traffic, business and education. Skåne Regional Council is the self-governing authority of Skåne, the southernmost county of Sweden. Region Skåne's competences include health and medical services, regional growth and development, public transport, culture and cross-border and interregional cooperation. And Region Zealand safeguards tasks, services and interests for a total of 820,000 citizens and plays a central role in a

network of cooperating partners, who work for a dynamic and coordinated development throughout the region, i.e. for business, education, urban development, public transport and certain environmental areas. Together they form one of the strongest life science clusters in the world.

About Alsace BioValley

As a French world-class cluster dedicated to therapeutic innovations, Alsace BioValley is the one-stop contact for optimizing any R&D development or business project in Europe. Located in the Alsace region, part of the famous French-German-Swiss BioValley and home to a unique concentration of international life sciences and healthcare players, Alsace BioValley will help any life sciences and healthcare companies interested in new projects and partnerships in Europe to search for outstanding scientific or industrial partners, to develop very innovative R&D projects, to find the best innovative technology -- patent or scientific expertise, or to set up and locate in the Alsace region. For more information visit www.alsace-biovalley.com or www.biovalley.com.

About the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, State Government of Victoria, Australia

The Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources helps develop Victoria's diverse and vibrant economy and grow employment by supporting pro-business policies and programs and the development of innovative industries. This includes focusing on science policy, including biotechnology and medical research, and the implementation of related life sciences programs. For more information, visit www.biotechnology.vic.gov.au or www.business.vic.gov.au/bgb.

About BioWin

BioWin is the Health Cluster of Wallonia, bringing together more than 500 members (including 120 innovative companies) involved in innovative scientific and industrial initiatives in the field of biotechnology, health and medical technology. The cluster focuses on 4 strategic areas: nurturing innovation, developing the skills needed for businesses in this field to succeed, raising the international profile of the cluster and businesses in this sector, and creating technological platforms. For more information, visit our website www.biowin.org and our blog <http://win-health.org>

About MATIMOP

MATIMOP, the executive agency of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS), of the Ministry of Economy of Israel is the official National Agency for industrial R&D cooperation in Israel, charged with promoting highly supportive policies to build Israel's industrial infrastructure, and nurturing industrial innovation and entrepreneurship. MATIMOP is the government agency that generates and implements international cooperative industrial R&D programs between Israeli and foreign enterprises. In recognition of its distance from global markets, the State of Israel enters into international agreements and has charged MATIMOP to aggressively expand opportunities for Israel's industry to engage in mutually beneficial international collaboration. The development of innovative new commercial technologies, products and services is a high risk expensive proposition, often exceeding the capacity and capabilities of individual firms and even countries, therefore necessitating the OCS's intervention and support. For additional information please visit: <http://www.matimop.org.il/>

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