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For Immediate Release

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Pharmaceutical Research Firm Receives an SBIR Grant from NIH

Ferndale based 21st Century Therapeutics, Inc. (21CTI) received a two-year SBIR research grant of \$674 K from National Institutes of Health (NIH) to develop a novel ELISA kit for screening potential Janus Kinase 3 (JAK3) Inhibitors. According to 21CTI's CEO, Dr. Frederick Valeriote, this is the fifth SBIR grant received by 21CTI.

“This research grant will help us in the development of a novel tool in screening JAK3 inhibitors”, said Valeriote. According to 21CTI's president and the Principal Investigator of this project, Dr. JJ Shaw, JAK3 is frequently over-activated during the course of autoimmune diseases including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, transplant rejection, and other allergic responses. Therefore, suitable inhibitors that modulate the over-expression of JAK3 may be potential agents for treating autoimmune diseases. This Phase I SBIR grant will be used to show the feasibility of developing such a novel screening kit that is more sensitive than currently available. If successful, 21CTI will apply for a Phase II grant to continue the development.

21CTI is a private pharmaceutical discovery and development company, specializing in cancer and immune-mediated diseases. In addition, the Company has several related projects under development, including this novel screening kit for JKA3 inhibitors.

This release contains forward-looking statements that are subject to various risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those described in these forward-looking statements due to certain factors, including changes in business, collaborators, economic and competitive conditions, regulatory reforms, foreign exchanges rate fluctuations, uncertainties in litigation or investigative proceedings, and the availability of financing. 21CTI's management does not undertake any responsibility to update the forward-looking statements contained in this release.

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