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Pharmaceutical Research Firm Receives an SBIR Grant from NIH

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Detroit based 21st Century Therapeutics, Inc. (21CTI) received an SBIR research grant of \$303 K from the National Center for Complementary & Integrative Health, National Institutes of Health (NIH), to develop a novel botanical drug to treat Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). This novel compound (KCR) from sycamore leaves was discovered and patented by Dr. Mark Hamann of Oxford based Oxford Pharmaceutical Development (OPD); KCR was subsequently licensed to 21CTI. According to 21CTI's CEO, Dr. Frederick Valeriote, this is the sixth SBIR grant received by 21CTI and first SBIR for OPD.

MRSA is a serious pathogen that can resist conventional antibiotic therapy. MRSA causes patient mortality and extends hospital stays, resulting in higher health care costs, especially in US hospitals. MRSA alone is estimated to kill around 19,000 people every year in the US. "This research grant will help us in the development of a novel drug class from the leaves of American sycamore", said Valeriote. According to the Director of Research of 21CTI and Principal Investigator of this project, Dr. Ben Chen, the long-term objective of this proposal is to develop the mixture of KCR isomers as an antibiotic botanical drug. The development and application for an IND and eventually an NDA will be completed as part of this project ushering in a new and safe plant derived class of treatments for drug resistant infectious diseases. As a new class of antibiotics KCR offers unique opportunities for applications with other antibiotics or independently in the control of drug resistant infectious disease.

Dr. Marcus Zervos of Henry Ford Health System will lead a research study at Henry Ford involving KCR for treating MRSA.

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 antibiotic for MRSA treatment. OPD is a natural products drug discovery and development company with leads for the treatment of infectious disease, cancer and depression.

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 & OPS's management does not undertake any responsibility to update the forward-looking statements contained in this release.

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