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Pharmaceutical Research Firms Receive an SBIR Grant from NIH

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Detroit-based 21st Century Therapeutics, Inc. (21CTI) received an SBIR research grant of \$345,000 from the National Institutes of Health to study the development of a novel small-molecule as a radioprotector for total body irradiation. This is the company's seventh SBIR grant.

There are increased needs for effective radiation countermeasures that can protect bone marrow, promote the recovery of hematopoietic stem cells, or even increase survival rate from total body irradiation. Acute radiation syndrome is a commonly known term referring to the continuum of acute injury following a radiation exposure. Currently, the handful of radiation countermeasures approved for acute radiation syndrome by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration – Amifostine, Neupogen and Neulasta – have significant limitations related to their necessary prolonged administration, ease of use or toxicity. Therefore, a need exists to develop radioprotectors, especially broad-spectrum agents, with higher potency and/or fewer side effects.

According to the project's principal investigator, Dr. Jiajiu Shaw of 21CTI, a small-molecule immunomodulator, UTS-1401, has been demonstrated in animal studies to show significant radioprotection against total body irradiation. This SBIR Phase 1 study will investigate the feasibility of developing UTS-1401 as a radioprotective agent.

Dr. Stephen Brown of Henry Ford Health System will study the radioprotective effects of UTS-1401.

21CTI is a private pharmaceutical discovery and development company, specializing in cancer and immune-mediated diseases. It also has several related projects under development.

This announcement 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.