



Pantherics Incorporated Receives SBIR Funding from the National Institutes of Health to Advance New Drug Development

Grant funding will support development of an oral formulation of an innovative medication to control asthma and other inflammatory conditions

MILWAUKEE, WI -- Aug. 10, 2022 -- Pantherics Incorporated (www.pantherics.com) received a \$255,841 Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, to advance development of a fundamentally novel anti-inflammatory drug, with lead clinical indications in asthma/COPD, dermatology, and gastrointestinal disorders. The first-in-class drug, PI301, was discovered by researchers at the Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (WI) and Columbia University (NY). With the SBIR funding, PI301 will be developed further by Pantherics to validate an optimal oral formulation, a key step before advancing to human clinical testing.

Dr. Alexander Arnold, Pantherics' Chief Scientific Officer, commented, "PI301 is an exciting new approach to control inflammation without the adverse effects of steroids and other common anti-inflammatory drugs, which can be important in several diseases. A key innovation is the development of PI301 for asthma, where a single oral drug could be used to control two disease hallmarks, lung inflammation and bronchospasm, without the use of common inhalers."

The SBIR is a highly competitive program that encourage domestic small businesses to engage in innovative, high-potential research and development. Through a competitive awards-based program, SBIR funding enables small businesses to explore their technological potential and provide the incentive to profit from its commercialization. Dr. Douglas Stafford, Pantherics' President notes, "The NIH/SBIR funding gives us important scientific and commercial validation and support to advance our lead therapeutic candidate to first in human testing."

About Pantherics Incorporated:

Pantherics is at the forefront of developing drugs that modulate peripheral GABA_A receptors (GABA_{AR}) for the treatment of inflammatory and smooth muscle disorders. For more than 50 years, drugs targeting GABA_{AR} have been approved for central nervous system indications and Pantherics is the first company to systematically repurpose this knowledge for the design of drugs for peripheral use. This platform technology and new therapeutic category offer a fundamentally novel and safe mechanism of drug action for inflammatory disease treatment, with applications in the treatment of pulmonary, dermatology, gastrointestinal, and other disorders.

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