



CaroGen Fostering Vaccine Development Collaborations with Yale and UConn and Establishing Laboratory at University of Connecticut Incubator Program

January 5, 2015, Farmington CT -- CaroGen Corporation today announced that it has chosen UConn's Technology Incubation Program (TIP) in Farmington to establish a laboratory footprint. This expansion will allow CaroGen to more aggressively pursue the advancement of its proprietary virus-like vesicle (VLV) vaccine technology, development of its HBV vaccine program and evaluation of other potential candidate infectious disease vaccines.

According to Co-Founder and CEO Dr. Bijan Almassian, the company selected UConn's TIP because it provides the opportunity to forge collaborations among CaroGen, UConn and Yale. "CaroGen is committed to fostering engagement and cooperation among key scientists at the state's two leading research institutions in addition to specific alliances with the Company. We will leverage the expertise at these two great institutions to support product development," Dr. Almassian said. "Working with the faculty of both universities will not only greatly benefit the company's scientific aims, but will demonstrate the unique value of such relationships to the state's life science community."

The CaroGen technology is based on the work of renowned Yale virologist, Dr. John Rose, Professor of Pathology and Director, Molecular Virology Program at the Yale School of Medicine, and was licensed from Yale in 2012. CaroGen currently has a Research Agreement in place with Dr. Rose and fellow Yale faculty, Dr. Michael Robek, both Co-Founders of the company. Its technology was validated by proof-of-concept studies in March of 2014. The company has developed significant mutual interest with several UConn Health researchers in The Department of Immunology and has signed confidentially agreements with Dr. Anthony Vella, Dr. Laura Haynes and Dr. Kamal Khanna to enable new vaccine research collaborations.

According to Dr. Jeff Seemann, UConn's Vice President for Research, UConn Health offers an integrated academic medical center with a growing its research base, academic and clinical programs. "Thanks to the state's Bioscience Connecticut initiative, we are able to support industry partners at a vibrant and expanding incubator," Dr. Seemann said. We welcome CaroGen's effort to bring together Yale and UConn," said Dr. Anthony Vella, Professor and Chair, Department of Immunology at UConn Health. "The relationships that develop will be interesting for the academic partners, and their expertise in fields of importance to the company, provide a powerful tool for the company's success in both scientific discovery and business."

Connecticut Innovations (CI) is a key supporter of the company. In October CI announced a Connecticut Bioscience Innovation Fund award for \$500,000 to CaroGen. CI made a Pre-Seed

Fund investment in the company of \$150,000 in July 2013. CaroGen's lead target is chronic Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) infection, a condition that affects approximately 240 million individuals globally and causes an estimated 600,000 deaths per year.

CaroGen won an Entrepreneur Innovation Award from CTNext in April of 2014; was awarded the "Most Promising Life Science Product for 2013" by the Connecticut Technology Council and was acknowledged as a "Company to Watch" in both 2013 and 2014.

The UConn Technology Incubation Program is part of the University's multifaceted technology commercialization enterprise and provides labs, research and development resources as well as business services to emerging companies, and to existing firms expanding into new markets.

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