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Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation Announces Round Four of Grant Funding
Organization in search of life sciences projects that address major unmet human health needs

RICHMOND, VA – April 14, 2015 – The Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC/“the Catalyst”) today announced that it is accepting applications/letters of interests (LOIs) for round four of grants to fund the development and commercialization of life science projects that address major unmet needs for improving human health. The awards, which range from \$200,000 to \$800,000, will help accelerate translational research in the Commonwealth of Virginia through collaborations between industry and Virginia research universities.

The deadline for consideration is May 15, 2015. Applications/LOIs and grant criteria can be downloaded from the VBHRC website (www.vbhrc.com).

“The VBHRC model is working; Virginia is now one of the leading national biotechnology hubs in collaborations, innovation, new company formation and job creation,” said Mike Grisham, CEO, VBHRC/“the Catalyst.” “We are helping to improve human health by fostering a unique (next-generation) collaborative system between Virginia’s research universities and industry.”

VBHRC/“the Catalyst” is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation funded by the Virginia General Assembly’s general fund and six of Virginia’s research universities, including Eastern Virginia Medical School, George Mason University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and Old Dominion University.

“VBHRC/“the Catalyst” has been a key element in launching several inter-institutional biomedical research projects in the Commonwealth that have brought multiple universities and industry together in new collaborations,” said Michael J. Friedlander, Ph.D., Executive Director, Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute. “These projects include an exciting new approach to tissue regeneration and repair in diabetes and a new initiative on brain research. It is an exciting time to be part of such a coalition of state government, university and private industry support for innovations in the health sciences. Bringing this model to bear on understanding the brain in health as well as identifying new markers, targets and tools for treating brain disorders is a recipe for making Virginia ‘the Brain State’.”

“VBHRC/“the Catalyst” brings a competitive advantage to Virginia biotech companies like Cavion,” said Andrew Krouse, President and CEO of Cavion LLC, a Charlottesville biotech company spun out of the University of Virginia. “Our grant has enabled us to conduct essential pre-clinical studies, the results of

which will be translated into the design of a Phase 2 clinical trial integrating our lead compound mibefradil into the standard-of-care regimen for patients with glioblastoma, a deadly form of brain cancer.”

About the Virginia Bioscience Health Research Corporation

The Virginia Bioscience Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), also known as the Catalyst, is a state created non-profit corporation whose mission is to improve human health by accelerating translational research through collaborations between Virginia research universities and industry. By creating an environment that makes Virginia a leader in collaborations, innovation and job creation, VBHRC aims to create stronger working partnerships that lead to greater collaboration and advancement of ideas and technology, from academia to industry and to health delivery systems.

VBHRC evaluates new grant applications on a semi-annual basis. Eligible projects should aim to accelerate translation research and commercialization, and require the participation of two or more participating Virginia universities in collaboration with at least one industry partner in the bioscience field, which provides external funding that matches or exceeds the state award. Letters of intent, applications and awards are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis, and awards range from \$200,000 to \$800,000. For more information, visit www.vbhrc.com.

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