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**Virginia Catalyst Awards $500,000 to Help Diagnose Brain Injuries**

*Virginia Tech, University of Virginia and Carilion Medical Center partner with BRAINBox Solutions™ to explore new diagnosis technology*

RICHMOND,VA – May 30, 2018 – The Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation, known as Virginia Catalyst, today announced that it has awarded a $500,000 grant to a collaborative bioscience commercialization project including a team from the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute, the University of Virginia, Carilion Medical Center, and BRAINBox Solutions, Inc., which is headquartered in Richmond. This grant, which includes matching funding of $500,000 provided by BRAINBox, will support the Virginia Brain Injury Diagnosis and Monitoring Initiative. This work will focus on a multi-modality system approach which will include point-of-care device detection of testing for brain injury blood biomarkers and development of integrated neuro-imaging, behavioral and biomarker models for outcome prediction for athletic brain injury and general brain injury management.

This funding supports the efforts to expand upon the ongoing collaborative work between the participating institutions, with the goal of setting the Standard of Care for mild traumatic brain injury and demonstrating the clinical utility of the system approach to provide more accurate risk assessment and stratification, as well as clinical treatment planning for individuals with suspected concussion or mild TBI from head injuries. This will inform targeted interventions for high-risk patients, reduce disability, and allow low-risk patients to return to work/play sooner.

“Virginia Catalyst continues to support Virginia’s research universities and partnerships with leading bioscience companies that can bring long-term, higher-paying jobs to Virginia,” said Mike Grisham, CEO, Virginia Catalyst. “Virginia’s research universities have a long history of developing emerging bioscience solutions, helping to drive innovation, collaboration and economic growth in the Commonwealth. This particular project will provide key insights into brain injuries, such as concussions, enhancing a physician’s ability to diagnose, manage and provide appropriate treatments.”

This grant is part of round seven of funding by Virginia Catalyst.

Virginia Catalyst is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation funded by the Virginia General Assembly’s general fund and seven of Virginia’s research universities. The organization has now awarded 28 grants totaling over $11 million, combined with $20.5 million in matching funds, which financed the achievement of meaningful milestones. This has then resulted in follow-on funding of an additional $80 million and the creation of high-paying jobs throughout the Commonwealth.

*Supporting Quotes*

“Our team's effort to develop, validate and perfect a precise, robust field test to diagnose mild traumatic brain injury comports with Virginia Tech's ‘Beyond Boundaries’ vision and *Ut Prosim* motto to innovate across disciplines and to tackle real world problems, giving back to society. With support from the Virginia Catalyst, we are addressing a health problem that affects people of all age groups, with particular impact among children, athletes, military personnel and older adults.” – Michael J. Friedlander, executive director of the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute; Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology, Virginia Tech

“Both the University of Virginia and Virginia Tech have access to great emergency and athletic departments. Virginia Tech brings a history of research in athletics and concussions, including biomechanics and helmet instrumentation research by Stefan Duma (the Harry Wyatt Professor of Engineering and the director of the Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science) and his team. We added brain imaging to a track record of research productivity with Virginia Tech athletics and Carilion Clinic’s emergency medicine department. UVA mirrors those exact themes. We were able to put all the pieces together. It is very exciting.” – Stephen LaConte, associate professor at the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute

“BRAINBox Solutions, Inc. has assembled a scientific advisory board and investor group who have a long history of setting clinical standards and changing practice in critical areas of care. The entire international team is extremely pleased to have these two great Virginia based universities be the first demonstration sites for further development and validation of the multi-modality system.” – Donna Edmonds, CEO of the new entity, Chairman of the Board, Immunarray Ltd, and CEO and President, Virginia Life Sciences Investments

 **About the Virginia Catalyst**

Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), known as Virginia Catalyst, has a vision of advancing life sciences throughout Virginia as a means of addressing large unmet medical needs to improve human health and to create high-paying jobs throughout the Commonwealth. Funded by the Virginia General Assembly’s General fund, the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, Eastern Virginia Medical School, George Mason University, Old Dominion University, and William and Mary, Virginia Catalysthas funding opportunities to support collaborative projects in the Commonwealth and is home to the Virginia Neuroscience Initiative. For more information, visit [www.virginiacatalyst.org](http://www.virginiacatalyst.org).

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