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**Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation, “the catalyst”, Announces Ten-to-One Return on Investment and New Grant Funding to Support Neuroscience Initiatives**

*Organization accepting applications for neuroscience initiatives involving Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism, ALS, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Mental Health, addiction and other brain disorders*

RICHMOND, VA – April 6, 2017 – Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC/“the catalyst”) today announced that it is accepting applications/letters of intent (LOIs) for Round 7 of grants to fund the development, validation and application of new approaches to diagnosing, preventing and treating neurological conditions, including brain injuries, brain developmental disorders, neurodegenerative disorders, neuropsychiatric and behavioral disorders, as well as addiction and substance abuse. The awards, which range from \$200,000 to \$800,000, will accelerate translational research in the Commonwealth of Virginia through collaborations between industry and Virginia research universities. The deadline for consideration is June 8, 2017. Applications/LOIs and grant criteria can be downloaded from the VBHRC website ([www.vbhrc.com](http://www.vbhrc.com)).

“VBHRC’s seventh round of funding provides us an opportunity to continue our focus on neurological issues that will lead to a better understanding of how the brain works,” said Mike Grisham, CEO, VBHRC/“the catalyst.” “This enables us to research and address disorders of the brain including Traumatic Brain Injuries, Autism, ALS, Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, mental health, addiction and post-deployment issues faced by our military. Virginia’s healthcare systems, universities and industry partners – in conjunction with the Department of Veterans Affairs – provide some of the most collaborative and innovative translational research programs in the country. This funding, provided by the Virginia General Assembly, will help accelerate this important research.”

This round of funding is part of the Virginia Neuroscience Initiative, an effort intended to coordinate and advance the state’s excellence in neuroscience research by expanding partnerships, infrastructure and resources. To date, VBHRC/“the catalyst” has awarded over \$10,400,000 for research around brain cancer therapeutics, diagnostics for Lyme disease, treatments for inflammatory bowel disease, tumor ablation for brain cancer and identifying novel biomarkers for glioblastoma, to name a few. Our program has resulted in matching funds in excess of \$20 million and follow-on funding in excess of \$80 million. This is a ten-to-one return on investment, along with significant job creation.

VBHRC/“the 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 including Eastern Virginia Medical School,

George Mason University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Old Dominion University, and William and Mary.

### **About the Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation**

Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), also known as “the catalyst,” is a state created non-profit corporation. VBHRC’s mission is to improve human health by accelerating translational research through collaborations between Virginia research universities and industry. The goal of “the catalyst” is to create an environment that builds relationships making Virginia a leader in collaborations, innovation, startups and job creation.

VBHRC evaluates grant applications on a semi-annual basis. Award recipients are those which accelerate translational research and commercialization. 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 on criteria and to access a copy of the LOI template, visit [www.vbhrc.com](http://www.vbhrc.com) or contact Megan McMahon at [mmcmahon@vbhrc.com](mailto:mmcmahon@vbhrc.com).

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