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Virginia Catalyst Awards \$500,000 to Help Enhance the Recovery from Opioid Overdoses
VCU, Virginia Tech, Inova Health System and Indivior team to change the standard of care for opioid patients

RICHMOND, VA – December 4, 2017 – 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 Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Tech, Inova Health System and Indivior Inc., a global specialty pharmaceutical company with a 20-year legacy of leadership in patient advocacy and health policy. This grant, which includes matching funding of \$500,000 provided by Indivior, is intended to catalyze the development and commercialization of life science projects that address major unmet needs for improving human health, while also contributing to Virginia’s economic growth. This project is focused on addressing neuroscience initiatives involving the treatment and care of patients recovering from an opioid overdose.

“Bioscience continues to be a vital part of Virginia’s economy and we are excited to continue our mission of helping to fuel innovation, collaboration and economic growth in our state,” said Mike Grisham, CEO, Virginia Catalyst. “Virginia’s research universities have long provided leadership on a national and global level in life sciences, combining their intellectual and scientific prowess through collaboration to achieve meaningful results. These achievements have attracted significant outside capital and industry participation to commercialize Virginia’s innovations, creating high-paying jobs for Virginia while improving lives around the world.”

The winning project for round seven is:

Project Focus: Novel Preventive Treatment Paradigm to Change the Standard of Care for Those Who Recover from Opioid Overdose

- Company: Indivior Inc. (Richmond, VA)
- University collaborators: Virginia Commonwealth University and Virginia Tech
- Additional collaborator: Inova Health System
- Funding amount: \$500,000
- Matching funds: \$500,000 provided by Indivior

Two additional projects are pending documentation.

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 26 grants totaling over \$10.5 million, combined with \$20 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

"This opioid overdose project seeks to develop and test a new treatment paradigm for patients who have an opioid overdose. We believe that our project will be the first to test medication treatment initiated in the emergency room after an opioid overdose followed by seamless outpatient treatment with a new once monthly injectable medication for chronic treatment of opioid use disorder. Our goal is to test whether this new paradigm significantly reduces repeat overdose rates and death. The funding from Virginia Catalyst was instrumental in supporting the Virginia collaborators to work together for this project." – Dr. F. Gerard Moeller, who directs VCU's Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies

"We know that treatment programs work if they combine medication with continuing addiction health care and support. When people arrive at the emergency room to recover from an overdose, their withdrawal symptoms will be treated and they will receive behavioral counseling without delay. After treatment, continued help will only be a phone call away. With this new protocol, we expect to show the number of repeat overdoses will fall." – Dr. Warren Bickel, director of the Virginia Tech Carilion Research Institute's Addiction Recovery Research Center, whose research since 1983 has helped lead to opioid replacement therapies currently in use.

"Inova is privileged to be a partner in a multi-center study that aims to blunt the opioid overdose epidemic in our Northern Virginia community and across the Commonwealth. The novel preventive treatment approach used in this clinical trial has potential to be applied nationwide." – Dr. Robert H. Lipsky, Director, Translational Research, Inova Neuroscience Institute, Inova Center for Personalized Health

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 Catalyst has funding opportunities to support collaborative projects in the Commonwealth and is home to the Virginia Neuroscience Initiative. For more information, visit www.virginiacatalyst.org.

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