

## **Centrose Receives Federal Funding for Anticancer Drug Program**

MADISON, Wi. September 28, 2007 – A research and development program aimed at enhancing anti-cancer drugs will now enjoy additional funding by the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Centrose, a biopharmaceutical company focused on making drugs better, received notice today from the NCI that its lead anti-cancer drug program will receive over \$160,000. This past June, Centrose received funding for one of its antibiotic programs.

Earlier this year, Centrose exclusively licensed a set of drug enhancement technologies that use sugars to lower toxic effects and increase drug potency. Since then, the company has been raising private funding to further develop the technologies. One major program at the Company has been focused on finding optimal small molecule drugs for a type of cancer known as non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). NSCLC accounts for about 80% of lung cancer deaths. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States among both men and women and more people die each year from lung cancer than from breast, colorectal, prostate, and ovarian malignancies combined. A main reason for these grim statistics is resistance to current therapies. The cardiac neoglycoside project being partially funded by this new grant is discovering sugar enhanced drugs especially useful for the treatment of NSCLC.

The ease and speed of creating these new highly potent therapeutic compounds is derived from Centrose's proprietary methods of attaching sugars to specific locations onto small molecule scaffolds. It is becoming increasingly clear that sugars play key roles in human health and disease. Sugars play such an important role in biology that experts tend to agree that the possibilities for sugar-based drugs seem to be absolutely endless. Therefore, it is not surprising that the methods patented by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and licensed exclusively to Centrose, continue to demonstrate their ability to improve drug activity and potency. Recent data that awaits final assessment appears to also indicate that the technology may have the ability to fine tune the targeting of drugs to specific cell types.

"We are happy to see that the NCI agrees that our sugar enhancement technology may play a significant role in developing new drugs to help fight a very aggressive form of cancer," said Richard Hutchinson, Ph.D., chief scientific officer of Centrose. "This funding will not only allow us to find better drug leads, but we anticipate follow up funding which will get our novel drugs into the clinic".

### **About Centrose LLC**

Centrose, a Madison, Wis.-based biopharmaceutical company, is applying scientific breakthroughs in sugar chemistry to the discovery, development and commercialization of small molecule therapeutics. Centrose delivers commercially relevant technology for the attachment of any sugar molecule to any compound. Sugars are critical to the regulation of biological processes and pathways in the human body, and play fundamental roles in drug action. Naturally derived drugs such as erythromycin, a commonly used antibiotic, that contain sugar molecules have been found to be inactive after the sugars were removed and enhanced in activity when new sugars were added. Centrose owns exclusive chemistry that will allow it's chemists to exploit the power of sugar chemistry in much the same way that nature does. Recent data suggests that new drugs containing sugar attachments will find their way to market more quickly, since fewer failures are expected. Centrose owns a broad set of patents and patent applications issued and filed by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation.

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