

URVentures

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TECHNOLOGY REVIEW

Your Guide to What's Happening at
UR Ventures and the University of RochesterNovo Nordisk Award to Fund
Development of Anti-Obesity Drug

Obesity is a global epidemic. An estimated 60 million Americans (nearly one in five) are classified as clinically obese. Rates of obesity are climbing throughout the developing world as well. Various pharmaceutical companies and research teams have been hunting for a treatment without severe adverse effects.

Richard Phipps, Ph.D., the Wright Family Research Professor of Environmental Medicine, and his team have developed a new approach to tackling this difficult problem. Their work has attracted the attention of [Novo Nordisk](#) – a world leader in diabetes and obesity care. Very recently, Novo Nordisk has bestowed the Phipps Lab with the prestigious Novo Nordisk Diabetes and Obesity Biologics Science Forum Award. The DOBSF Award is highly competitive, and the Phipps team beat

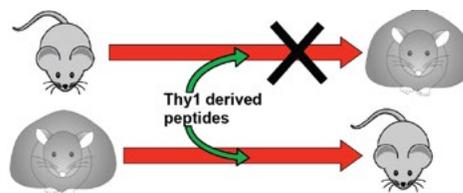
out more than 100 competitors.

The Phipps Lab discovered that production of the Thy1 protein seems to lessen during the creation and accumulation of fat cells. By reintroducing Thy1 peptides, Phipps and colleagues have prevented mice from gaining weight when fed a high-fat diet – and, more impressively, obese mice have seen a reduction in their waistlines.

When originally approached about this promising discovery, Novo Nordisk requested additional proof of concept data. Weimin Kaufman, Ph.D., MBA, a licensing manager with UR Ventures, helped Phipps and Collynn Woeller, Ph.D. prepare the data and application for the [UR Ventures Technology Development Fund \(TDF\)](#). The \$100K in TDF funding that Phipps received was crucial for the tests that provided the

further support for the Novo Nordisk Award. Kaufman was also instrumental in helping Phipps and Woeller apply and prepare for the Novo Nordisk grant process.

The Novo Nordisk DOBSF award will provide funding over the next two years to conduct additional animal studies and to collect enough data to determine if this promising research will advance to human trials and continued development for commercialization.

Eagle Dream Health Announces
Exclusive Partnership with Medline

[EagleDream Health](#) announced in October that they have entered into an exclusive partnership with [Medline](#) for the marketing and distribution of their software and services.



As discussed [earlier](#), EagleDream Health offers a sophisticated analytical tool that allows healthcare providers, networks, and insurers to monitor and to understand how individual clinical decisions impact not only patient outcomes, but also the overall performance of their entire operation.

Medline is a global manufacturer and distributor serving the healthcare industry with medical supplies and

clinical solutions that help their customers achieve both clinical and financial success.

This partnership allows EagleDream Health to benefit from Medline's vast experience and customer network, while giving Medline the exclusive right to distribute EagleDream Health's powerful tool.

New Compound to Treat Neurocognitive Disorders

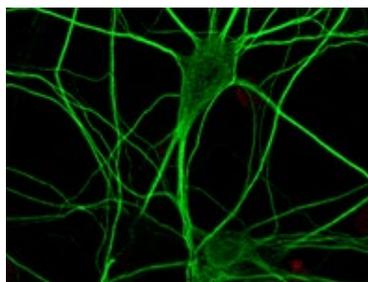
If our brains were simple enough for us to understand them, we'd be so simple that we couldn't.

- Ian Stewart

The brain is a marvelously complex structure that keeps us alive and carries within it the quality that makes us unique individuals. This delicate organ can easily go wrong, whether through injury, infection, defect, or disease. One thing that we definitely do understand about the brain is that prolonged neural inflammation causes an array of memory and cognitive disorders often accompanied with neurological diseases, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease (PD), Multiple Sclerosis (MS), and HIV-associated neurocognitive disorders (HAND).

Harris A. Gelbard, M.D., Ph.D., the Director of the Center for Neural Development and Disease, and Professor of Neurology, Pediatrics, and Microbiolo-

gy & Immunology has been searching for a therapeutic solution for neuroinflammation associated with AIDS for 25 years, with accumulative funding support of \$35 million from the NIH. Gelbard, in collaboration with Drs. Stephen Dewhurst and Sanjay Maggior from the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, has designed a large portfolio of innovative drug candidates that inhibit the production of Mixed Lineage Kinase enzymes. These enzymes, and in particular MLK3, are



understood to trigger the neuroinflammatory process. Gelbard and his team have conducted various pre-clinical

screens to validate the concept behind this new approach to treat inflammation.

The lead compounds, in particular URMC-099, are set to be tested in human subjects in 2016. Initial trials will be to determine if this approach is successful in ameliorating Postoperative Cognitive Dysfunction – an irreversible condition caused by neuroinflammation that occurs in elderly patients undergoing a variety of surgical procedures, such as Coronary Artery Bypass Graft surgery.

If successful, these compounds may translate to therapies against MS, PD, HAND, traumatic brain injuries, and other diseases sharing the same underlying etiology.

UR Ventures has licensed the patent rights to the novel MLK3 inhibitor compounds to [WavoDyne Therapeutics](#), a biotech startup based in Rochester.

Also in the news:



[Clerio Vision](#) was recently featured in the [Bio Tuesdays](#) weekly newsletter.



Applications Are Now Being Accepted for the NSF I-Corps Program

The [University of Rochester's I-Corps](#) site is accepting applications for the Spring 2016 cohort. Student, faculty, staff, and alumni teams are encouraged to apply for resources, advice, and modest funding to advance a project toward commercialization. An informational session will be announced soon. Contact [Matthew Spielmann](#) for details.



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