



University
of Cambridge



DANIO LABS

Establishment of major neurodegenerative platform between pharma and academia

DanioLabs, the UK based therapeutics company and Cambridge Institute for Medical Research (CIMR) have won significant funding enabling the creation of a fully integrated research group investigating novel treatments for neurodegeneration including Parkinson's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease and Huntington's Disease.

The \$3m funding, peer-reviewed by academia and pharmaceutical experts consolidates DanioLabs' work with that of Cambridge Institute of Medical Research (CIMR) and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge forming a fully integrated research group spanning all aspects of neurodegeneration biology.

Paul Goldsmith, Chief Scientific Officer of DanioLabs and clinical neurologist said, "The Rubinzstein group have already identified compounds such as rapamycin and targets that we are interested in taking forward. This funding will allow us to develop a powerful in vivo system in zebrafish to prioritise these existing candidates and identify new candidates to be assessed using the other tools and systems available to the consortium and ultimately move into the clinic."

The consortium now numbers forty people with expertise across a full range of biology system approaches, as well as pharmacology, drug discovery and development. Dr David Rubinzstein, Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Fellow Reader and honorary consultant leading the research at CIMR said, "The zebrafish platform represent a very powerful tool for drug discovery, combining vertebrate biology and the potential for moderate-throughput screens. They will address a current rate-limiting step in the quest for treatments for these devastating diseases."

Dr Roger Brimblecombe, Chairman of DanioLabs added: "This consortium now has major momentum to take forward the exciting data already generated to a new level. Having the various groups working in such an integrated fashion to inform each other of the relevance and priorities of their work which

together with their close clinical links and the neurodegeneration clinical expertise in Cambridge gives us a chance for a major breakthrough being carried all the way through here.”

Notes to Editors

About DanioLabs Ltd

DanioLabs is a therapeutics company that uses its world leading phenotype driven drug discovery technologies to identify novel treatments for a variety of human diseases. A major part of the DanioLabs' platform involves the use of zebrafish as an experimental species. Using these models, the Company is able to identify activity of experimental compounds, and to provide the additional evidence relevant to the treatment of the disease needed to progress such compounds cost-effectively through the drug development process.

DanioLabs build high-throughput disease models that allow 96 well plate format in vivo screening. As well as working with partners to develop new models in a variety of disease areas and to undertake screening campaigns, the Company also uses its systems to identify its own novel therapeutics. For more information on DanioLabs Ltd, please see www.daniolabs.com

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About CIMR

The aim of CIMR is to provide a unique interface between basic and clinical science that underpins our major goal of determining and understanding the molecular mechanisms of disease.

CIMR supports excellent basic research and encourages collaborations between research groups and across major research themes, which broadly encompass medical genetics, metabolic medicine, cell biology, immunology, developmental biology and structural biology.

CIMR is an exciting place to work that fosters scientific discovery and progress. It is housed in the Wellcome Trust/MRC building and is established under regulations approved by the Faculty Board of Clinical Medicine.

All of the scientists in CIMR are members of 'home' Departments of the University of Cambridge. Presently, the 'home' Departments are Clinical Biochemistry, Haematology, Medicine, Medical Genetics, Oncology and Pathology.

Some of the core scientific support in CIMR is provided by a five-year award from the Wellcome Trust as a 'strategic initiative in the clinical sciences at CIMR'. For further information please see www.cimr.cam.ac.uk.