



Investing in the State of Innovation

## PRESS RELEASE

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**Massachusetts Life Sciences Center Awards First Round of Massachusetts Ramp Up Grants to Seven Life Science Companies**

*The program will provide state grant funding to leverage federal SBIR/STTR innovation grants for early-stage companies*

**WALTHAM, Mass.** – Today, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) announced more than \$1.4 million in awards to seven life sciences companies through the first-round of the Massachusetts Ramp-Up Program (MassRamp). MassRamp is a new program that will provide grant funding to promising early-stage life sciences companies. The awards - designed to help bridge the funding gaps associated with the long life sciences R&D cycle, and the high cost of translating research into commercially viable products - were approved by the Board of Directors of the MLSC.

The program will provide supplemental grant funding, on a competitive basis, to companies that have been awarded Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) or Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase I grants, or contracts from federal agencies. MassRamp is a form of follow-on funding meant to cover the costs of direct labor, clinical trials, consultants and subcontractors, materials, supplies and equipment. Up to \$3,000,000 in funding was made available for this inaugural round of the program.

“Through this program we are supporting companies developing medical devices for pediatric retinal imaging; who test for treatment-resistant HIV; and who are working to improve the efficacy of a particular type of back pain treatment,” said Travis McCready, President & CEO of the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center. “The more than \$1.5 million awarded to these companies cover the true breadth of what the life sciences are in Massachusetts and I am excited to see the end results of our investment.”

Applications were subjected to a rigorous joint peer review and MLSC Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) review, followed by a question and answer evaluation and an in-depth discussion by the reviewers. Applicants were then further screened by the MLSC’s Investment Sub-Committee of the Board of Directors. Final awards were determined by the MLSC’s Board of Directors.

The seven companies that have been authorized to receive a grant, the city or town in which they are located, and the amount awarded are as follows:

<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Brief Project Description</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>
Aldatu Biosciences	Cambridge	Reagent development and testing for treatment-resistant minority variants of HIV	\$200,000
DS Labs ( <i>dba Kohana</i> )	Canton	Complete final steps towards commercialization for breast pump platform technology via quality system development and e-commerce launch	\$200,000
Lariat Biosciences, Inc.	Beverly	Liquid Biopsy for Comprehensive Genetic Profiling in cancer patients	\$200,000
Micro-Leads Inc.	Boston	Clinical feasibility study to determine efficacy of stimulation electrodes to treat low-back pain	\$290,000
Platelet Biogenesis	Boston	Clinical trials regarding radiation countermeasures via bio-manufactured platelets	\$200,000
REBION	Cambridge	Pediatric lazy-eye detection through retinal imaging	\$145,250
Snapdragon Chemistry	Cambridge	Development of flow chemical reactors for atomization of medicinal chemistry process	\$200,000

Eligible companies must have been awarded a Phase I SBIR or STTR grant or contract from a federal agency for the project for which the company is requesting MassRamp funding. Proposals must focus on human health with an identified commercial product or service. Federal awards must have been made after January 1, 2015.

"The MassRamp Program is filling a critical gap in the market and will amplify the impact of our existing SBIR award from the NIH," said Sven Karlsson, Co-Founder of Platelet BioGenesis. "We are grateful for the support from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center, which has been a catalyst for the growth of our company and our ability to leverage private capital."

Platelet Biogenesis Co-Founder Jonathan Thon added, "Ultimately, this funding will play a key role in bringing safer, more affordable and more reliable donor-independent platelet products to patients."

### ***About the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center***

The Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) is an investment agency that supports life sciences innovation, research, development and commercialization. The MLSC is charged with implementing a \$1-billion, state-funded investment initiative. These investments create jobs and support advances that improve health and well-being. The MLSC offers the nation's most comprehensive set of incentives and collaborative programs targeted to the life sciences ecosystem. These programs propel the growth that has made Massachusetts the global leader in life sciences. The MLSC creates new models for collaboration and partners with organizations, both public and private, around the world to promote innovation in the life sciences. For more information, visit [www.masslifesciences.com](http://www.masslifesciences.com).