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Profectus Awarded Phase I SBIR Grant to Develop Universal Influenza A Vaccine

BALTIMORE, Md., October 21, 2016 —Profectus BioSciences, Inc., a clinical-stage company developing novel vaccines for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases and the treatment of cancer, announced today that the company has received a Phase I Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, NIH. This award supports the development and testing of Profectus' novel DNA prime / subunit boost universal influenza vaccine, in collaboration with Deborah Fuller, PhD, Associate Professor of Microbiology at the University of Washington. The effort builds on preliminary unpublished data demonstrating that the novel composite antigens contained in Profectus' vaccine elicit broad immune responses against multiple conserved influenza antigens and provide improved protection from a drifted strain challenge. This collaboration aims to improve the breadth of coverage of the vaccine by including additional immunogen sequences specific for group 1 and 2 influenza A strains and immunogen sequences specific for human, avian, and swine strains. Various aspects of this Phase I SBIR effort will be carried out at Profectus and the University of Washington.

About Profectus BioSciences

Profectus BioSciences is a clinical-stage vaccine development company developing preventive and therapeutic vaccines for infectious diseases and oncolytic vaccines for cancer immunotherapy. Profectus vaccines are based on the company's proprietary VesiculoVax™ and DNA vaccine delivery platforms. Used alone, first-in-class VesiculoVax™-vectored vaccines lead to rapid expansion of B cells to provide protection against emerging infectious diseases of public health and biodefense importance such as Ebola, Marburg, Chikungunya, and the Equine Encephalitis viruses. When used as a boost after priming the immune system with best-in-class pDNA vaccines, VesiculoVax™-vectored vaccines lead to the expansion of primed T cells into effector cells that are uniquely suited to killing virally infected cells and cancers.

Current programs using the Prime/Boost System of Vaccines (PBS Vax™) strategy include hepatitis B virus (HBV), human papilloma virus (HPV), herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2), and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Partners and collaborators include Vyriad, the Galveston National Laboratory at UTMB, Yale University, the Institute of Human Virology, the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology, the National Cancer Institute, the NIH Division of AIDS, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, the HIV Vaccines Trials Network, and the AIDS Clinical Trials Group. Profectus has been funded by Cross Atlantic Capital Partners ("XACP") of Radnor, Pennsylvania. XACP's primary investor is the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS). For more information, please visit www.profectusbiosciences.com.

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