



CUMBERLAND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY AWARDED NATIONAL GRANT

Grant will fund study of new treatment for painful lung condition

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (November 1, 2005) – Cumberland Emerging Technologies (CET) announced today that its research alliance with Vanderbilt University has been awarded a two-year, \$750,000 National Institutes of Health (NIH) small business grant to study a new palliative treatment for patients with fluid buildup in the chest associated with certain cancers.

The grant will fund an ongoing study and clinical trials involving the use of a naturally occurring growth factor, TGF Beta, to treat “pleural effusion,” the condition which occurs when cancer spreads to the surface of the lung and chest cavity, causing fluid to accumulate and patients to suffer shortness of breath and chest pain. An estimated 100,000 patients are affected by this condition each year.

The procedure for treating this condition is called pleurodesis, during which the accumulated fluid is drained and the chest cavity is treated with an irritant. This causes the lung and chest walls to fuse together, preventing further fluid build up; however, all of the irritant agents currently used cause pain, and have only a 60-90% success rate. Vanderbilt School of



Medicine researchers Dr. Kirk Lane, Dr. Richard Light and Professor Jeffrey Davidson believe that injecting the biological compound TGF Beta into the chest will cause accelerated adhesion without the painful side effects, and will result in a higher rate of success as well as faster relief for patients.

“We are pleased to attract this financial support for Vanderbilt University to study TGF Beta and to address this critical medical need,” said A.J. Kazimi, chief executive officer of CET. “Working with Vanderbilt to bring medical research findings into clinical practices is a perfect example of what we envisioned when we created CET.”

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While the new treatment using TGF Beta does not treat cancer or offer a cure, it can improve a seriously ill patient's quality of life. Traditionally, pleurodesis requires at least a week stay in the hospital. Preliminary studies show that TGF Beta works faster, and could eventually be administered on an outpatient basis. It may also have potential for treating other lung ailments.

“We are thrilled that the National Institutes of Health have recognized the important research being conducted with this grant, and we look forward to ultimately making this technology available to those who can benefit,” said Chris McKinney, Director of the Office of Technology Transfer and Enterprise Development at Vanderbilt. The phase II trial is expected to begin in early 2006.

Cumberland Emerging Technologies, Inc. is a joint initiative between Cumberland Pharmaceuticals Inc., Vanderbilt University and the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation. The mission of CET (www.cet-fund.com) is to bring biomedical technologies and products conceived at Vanderbilt and other regional research centers to the commercial marketplace. CET helps manage the development and commercialization process for select projects, and provides expertise on intellectual property, regulatory, manufacturing, and marketing issues that are critical to successful new biomedical products. CET's Life Sciences Center, located in Nashville, Tennessee, provides laboratory space, equipment and infrastructure to early-stage life sciences companies.

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