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Proteon Therapeutics, LLC Awarded Grant by National Institutes of Health for New Cardiovascular Drug Development Program

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (Jan. 12, 2005) — Proteon Therapeutics, LLC announced the award of a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI). The grant titled “Permanent Vasodilators for Improved Angioplasty” will provide Phase I funding for a pre-clinical study of the use of the company’s lead-drug candidate to improve the effectiveness of balloon angioplasty. This is the second Phase I SBIR/STTR awarded to Proteon Therapeutics from the National Institutes of Health in 2004.

Proteon Therapeutics is focused on developing novel, first-in-class pharmaceuticals to address the critical, rapidly expanding medical needs of patients with vascular diseases. Proteon’s lead-drug candidate provides permanent, localized vasodilation of vessels during surgical and endovascular procedures. “We have been initially focused on hemodialysis access surgery, which has huge unmet medical needs,” says F. Nicholas Franano, M.D./M.A., president and CEO of Proteon Therapeutics. “With this new grant from the NIH, we can work toward helping more patients, those who require angioplasty procedures where stents are not used.”

Research and development will be conducted in collaboration with James L. Vacek, M.D., associate professor of Medicine (Cardiology) at the University of Kansas School of Medicine (KUMC). “We are pleased to collaborate with Proteon Therapeutics and are always interested in promising new cardiovascular drugs, especially those that have the potential to revolutionize patient care,” stated Dr. Vacek.

The partnership with KUMC was arranged by Dr. Thomas Noffsinger, vice chancellor for Research Administration at KUMC and executive director of the KUMC Research Institute.

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