



Substantial Innovate UK grant awarded to broaden neurodegenerative disease models in collaboration with Oxford University

Chronos Therapeutics together with Prof Alison Woollard, of the Department of Biochemistry at the University of Oxford, has been successful in securing a substantial grant award from the UK's Innovation Agency, Innovate UK.

The project entitled "An Integrated Non-Vertebrate Drug Discovery Platform for Neurodegenerative Disease", will see the partners utilising their complementary capabilities in drug screening and development, and worm developmental biology, to create novel worm models of neurodegenerative diseases with the ability to determine both efficacy and toxicity of new drugs. In essence the grant will help develop an automated measure of Therapeutic Index, the ratio between effective and toxic doses of novel medicines.

This novel screening approach will make it possible to test drugs for effectiveness against symptoms of neurodegenerative disease and also establish early on whether the same drugs have toxic effects helping to reduce failure or "attrition" of drugs at later stages of testing. The funding which was secured competitively under the "Developing Non-animal Technologies" programme will provide a grant of approx. £600k towards a total project cost of approx. £900k over 3 years.

The competition, co-funded by Innovate UK, MRC, BBSRC, EPSRC and NC3Rs, seeks to advance the rate of development and commercialisation of non-animal technologies and testing systems that can better predict human and animal responses to, and the environmental effects of, chemicals and new molecular entities. The work will further strengthen Chronos Therapeutics' proprietary screening approach accelerating its programmes in neurodegeneration.

Innovate UK is the UK's innovation agency. It works with people, companies and partner organisations to find and drive the science and technology innovations that will grow the UK economy. For further information visit www.innovateuk.gov.uk

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