

## Traverse Biosciences gets tech transfer funding

BY JOSEPH HARVEY

**A former presenting company at the Kansas City Animal Health Corridor Investment Forum has been awarded \$205,709 to conduct research into periodontal disease.**

New York-based Traverse Biosciences received a Phase I Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) award in partnership with the School of Dental Medicine at Stony Brook University, also based in New York.

The funding comes from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of the National Institutes of Health. It will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of Traverse's lead drug candidate, TRB-N0224, for use in humans and animals.

The firm said it will conduct the research with Dr Lorne Golub in the Department of Oral Biology and Pathology, and Dr Ying Gu, in the Department of General Dentistry.

According to Traverse: "Canine periodontal disease affects approximately 80% of dogs by the age of three, with the highest incidence in smaller breeds and older animals. Periodontal disease in dogs leads to serious complications (halitosis, pain, gum damage, tooth loss, bone infection, jaw fracture, fistula), and can impair liver, kidney, cardiac and metabolic function.

"Advanced periodontal disease adversely affects quality of life and mortality, especially in older animals. Diagnosis and disease progression necessitates dental cleanings, periodontal procedures and tooth extractions, all performed under general anesthesia, which also carries significant health risks."

### Commercialization work in progress

Joseph Scaduto, founder and chief executive of Traverse, said: "We are working to successfully commercialize TRB-N0224 as an FDA-approved pharmaceutical intervention for the treatment of periodontal disease in both humans and companion animals, and we intend to aggressively pursue pre-clinical and clinical development to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of this lead drug candidate."

This is the second time Traverse has been awarded an STTR. Last year, the company received a \$223,797 Phase I STTR in partnership with the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, part of the North Shore-LIJ Health System. This funding from the National Institute on Aging – a division of the National Institutes of Health – was used to evaluate the effectiveness of the firm's lead candidate for the treatment of osteoarthritis.

TRB-N0224 was originally selected from a proprietary library of potential drug candidates invented by Dr Golub and Dr Francis Johnson, who is president of Chem-Master International and professor of chemistry and pharmacological sciences at Stony Brook University.

The company has an option to license the relevant intellectual property from the Research Foundation for the State University of New York, with exclusive license negotiations currently underway.

Mr Scaduto presented at last year's KC Animal Health Corridor Investment Forum.

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