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## **Five Maryland University-Based Research Teams Receive Funding from TEDCO to Assess Commercial Viability of New Technologies**

*The University research teams receive \$67,500 total from TEDCO's TechStart program*

**COLUMBIA, Md.** (Aug. 3, 2009) – **The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)** announced today that five Maryland university-based research teams have received \$67,500 total in funding. Teams from the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), and Johns Hopkins University (JHU), each received up to \$15,000 in funding from TEDCO's TechStart program. TechStart helps university- and federal lab-based teams determine the commercial viability of specific technologies, and is designed to increase the number of startups, elevating Maryland's national standing.

"Thanks to programs like TEDCO's TechStart, Maryland has a distinct advantage in capitalizing on and benefiting from cutting-edge technologies being developed on the university level," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "Some of the nations most promising innovations come out of Maryland research institutions and we are fortunate to have programs in place which foster that potential."

"In an uncertain economy and with venture capital at an all time low, TEDCO is pleased to support these promising research teams as they assess and determine the future of their work," said Renée Winsky, president and executive director of TEDCO. "The TechStart program has proved very valuable over the course of its two and half year history in bringing technology out of Maryland's university research institutions and federal labs and enabling its entry into the commercial marketplace. We look forward to continuing to assist university and federal lab researchers and scientists in this effort."

TechStart provides funding to university- and federal lab-based teams that must include: an inventor who is willing to assist in evaluating the feasibility of a startup; an experienced entrepreneur who will provide business guidance; and a technology transfer manager. To receive funding, teams must submit a proposal to TEDCO for further evaluation. Recipients receive a maximum of \$15,000 through TechStart, which defrays the costs of evaluating the probability of the startup's opportunity. All Maryland university and federal lab teams are eligible for funding.

- Harry Silber, M.D., Ph.D., cardiologist, assistant professor of cardiology and biomedical engineer at JHU; Jamil LaHam, entrepreneur; and Eugene Yelden, technology transfer manager at JHU, are developing a novel safe, simple and cost-effective method to diagnose and manage heart failure. The team received funding to review relevant market reports, identify regulatory requirements, and to assess reimbursement options.
- Raj Shekhar, Ph.D., an engineer scientist in diagnostic radiology at UMB; William Plishker, Ph.D., entrepreneur and electrical engineer at UMB and University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP);

Isaac Fram, principal at Biomedical Imaging Solutions, Inc.; and Elizabeth Good, director, strategic investments at UMB, are developing a platform technology for fast and accurate image registration (spatial alignment) of two 3-D images for use in both diagnostic and image-guided therapy applications. The team received funding to provide market data for a business plan.

- Susan Keay, M.D., professor of medicine at UMB; Gary Robinson, Ph.D., entrepreneur; and Elizabeth Good, director, strategic investments at UMB, are developing a technology based on an agent known as Antiproliferative Factor (APF) in patients with interstitial cystitis or painful bladder syndrome. The project will examine the patentability of certain lead therapeutic candidates that have potential application in the treatment of interstitial cystitis and cancer and the market potentials for the compounds in these indications.
- Wayne Sternberger, Ph. D., a systems engineer at APL; Robert Greenberg, M.D., anesthesiologist at JHU; Jodi Cook, Ph. D., entrepreneur; and Teresa Colella, Ph.D., technology transfer manager at APL, are working to market a “regional anesthesia monitor”. The team received funding for a market study for human use of this device.
- Vincent Njar, Ph.D., a chemist formerly with UMB and currently at Thomas Jefferson Medical School; Blake Paterson, M.D., entrepreneur; and Elizabeth Good, director, strategic investments at UMB, are developing retinoic blocking agents (RAMBAs) that block metabolism of all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA). ATRA directs cells to mature normally rather than grow like a cancer cell. The team received funding to perform a freedom to operate analysis and a market study for certain combination therapies.

**The Maryland Technology Development Corporation (TEDCO)**, an independent entity, was established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1998 to facilitate the creation of businesses and foster their growth in all regions of the State. TEDCO's role is to be Maryland's leading source of funding for seed capital and entrepreneurial business assistance for the development, transfer and commercialization of technology. TEDCO connects emerging technology companies with federal laboratories, research universities, business incubators and specialized technical assistance. For the fifth consecutive year, TEDCO was recognized as the most active seed/early-stage investor in the nation in the August 2008 issue of Entrepreneur magazine and received the national Excellence in Technology-Based Economic Development award from the State Science and Technology Institute (SSTI) for the Maryland Technology Transfer Fund (MTTF) program in October 2008. For more information on TEDCO and its programs and resources, visit [www.MarylandTEDCO.org](http://www.MarylandTEDCO.org).

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