



CONTACT:

Jeanne Mell
University City Science Center
215-966-6029
jmell@sciencecenter.org

Science Center's QED Program Issues RFP
For Third Round of Proof-of-Concept Program

PHILADELPHIA--(June 24, 2010) – Scientists and researchers from 17 universities and research institutions in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware have been invited to submit proposals for the third round of the University City Science Center's QED Proof-of-Concept Funding Program.

The RFP was released on June 24 to: Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Delaware State University, Drexel University, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Harrisburg University of Science and Technology, Lankenau Institute for Medical Research, Lehigh University, Monell Chemical Senses Center, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, Temple University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Delaware, University of Pennsylvania, University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Widener University, The Wistar Institute.

The QED Program (from the Latin "*Quod Erat Demonstrandum*" – "that which is demonstrated") integrates four elements that are critical to successfully and efficiently performing early-stage proof-of-concept technology assessments: grant funding, business advice, market drivers and guidance to exit. The program was launched in April 2009.

"The business advice that the researchers receive is a key part of the QED program's success," says Dr. Stephen S. Tang, Ph.D., President & CEO of the Science Center. "Not only does it distinguish QED from other proof-of-concept programs, but the researchers involved in the program tell us that it helps them better understand and prepare for the commercialization process."

QED awards are made to bridge the "valley of death" – the gap between research grants and commercial seed investment, by awarding grants to life science technologies with high potential in the healthcare industry.

To date, the QED Program, the first multi-institutional proof-of-concept funding program in the nation, has made six awards of \$200,000 each to the following research projects:

- A near-infrared wound monitor developed by Dr. Elisabeth Papazoglou and her team at Drexel University.
- A portable, low-cost, radiation-free breast cancer screening device for use in women with dense breasts, being developed by a team led by Dr. Wan Shih of Drexel University.
- Nanostructured thin films for reducing bacterial infection via external bone fixator pins, being developed by Dr. Paul Ducheyne's team at the University of Pennsylvania.
- Robert J. Levy, MD, Professor of Pediatrics & Pharmacology at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia developed a technology that is expected to significantly reduce the 100,000 surgeries performed each year in the U.S. to replace blocked stents.
- A group at Penn Medicine headed by Associate Professor of Surgery Joseph H. Gorman III, MD, is developing a minimally invasive technique for replacing damaged heart valves.
- The U1 Adaptor technology being developed by Samuel I. Gunderson, Ph.D.'s team at Rutgers University is a brand-new method for silencing genes that works via a completely different mechanism to current techniques.

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A team comprised of regional industry representatives and investors will review the white papers and narrow the proposals down to 10 projects in August. Those 10 scientists will be paired with business advisors who will help them make the business case to support the commercialization of their technologies. In December, the researchers will present to the selection team, which will ultimately selected three projects to be funded.

About the Science Center

The University City Science Center accelerates technology commercialization, regional economic development, and the market availability of life-enhancing scientific breakthroughs by bringing together innovations, scientists, entrepreneurs, funding, laboratory facilities, and business services. Established in 1963 and headquartered in Philadelphia, PA, the Science Center was the first, and remains the largest, urban research park in the United States. Graduate organizations and current residents of the University City Science Center's Port business incubators have created more than 15,000 jobs that remain in the Greater Philadelphia region today and contribute more than \$9 billion to the regional economy annually. For more information about the Science Center, go to www.sciencecenter.org.

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