

Wellcome Trust and investors back development of new surgical haemostat

5th November 2010 - Haemostatix Ltd, a biopharmaceutical company, announced today that it has received a £409,000 Translation Award from the Wellcome Trust to support development of its innovative haemostat technology. The funding coincides with an additional £459,000 investment from Spark Ventures, Catapult Venture Managers, NESTA, the Lachesis Fund and Leicester University as well as new investor, Nottingham's Mobius Technology Ventures.

Haemostats are used by surgeons to manage problematic bleeding and to reduce time in the operating theatre during surgery. The products are applied in the form of sprays, gels or pads, and typically contain the enzyme thrombin, which promotes blood clotting, as the active ingredient.

Haemostatix has developed a new class of active ingredient based on a peptide that binds to another blood clotting protein, fibrinogen, instantly forming a clot.

Dr Ben Nichols, CEO of Haemostatix, commented: "There is a real need for rapid acting, ready-to-use haemostats that are safe and cost-effective, and we believe our technology can deliver these benefits to surgeons and their patients. We have received a lot of interest from pharmaceutical companies, and this Award and the investment, will enable us to generate more data to support the commercialisation process."

Dr Richard Seabrook, Head of Business Development at the Wellcome Trust, said: "Bleeding is a major cause of mortality during trauma and control of bleeding during surgery is essential to the outcome of procedures. If successful, a new haemostat that bypasses the need for thrombin has the potential to make a huge impact on healthcare and the Wellcome Trust is pleased to support this project."

Haemostatix is based at Nottingham's BioCity and was originally a spin-out from Leicester University.

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For further information please contact:

Ben Nichols Haemostatix Ltd
+44 7 747 714 204

Jonathan Gee, SPARK Ventures:
+44 (0)20 7851 7777

Annabel O'Connor for SPARK Ventures:
+44 (0)20 7307 5339

Nicola Kane, NESTA
+44 (0)20 7438 2608

Jonathan Earl, Catapult Venture Managers:
+44 (0)870 116 1600

Notes to Editors

About Haemostatix

Based at BioCity, Nottingham, UK, Haemostatix Ltd specialises in the research and development of innovative haemostats for the control of bleeding in surgery and trauma. The Company is developing a pipeline of haemostats based on its new class of active ingredient that will replace thrombin. The company was co-founded in 2003 by Sarah Middleton and Professor Alison Goodall as a spin-out from the University of Leicester. Spark Ventures, Catapult Venture Managers, NESTA and the Lachesis Fund are the major investors.
www.haemostatix.com

About the Wellcome Trust

The Wellcome Trust is a global charitable foundation dedicated to achieving extraordinary improvements in human and animal health. It supports the brightest minds in biomedical research and the medical humanities. The Trust's breadth of support includes public engagement, education and the application of research to improve health. It is independent of both political and commercial interests.
www.wellcome.ac.uk