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Lohocla Research Recognized as a Leader in Innovation with a 2024 Colorado Inno Award from the Denver Business Journal

Local biotech firm is one of ten companies recognized for "their out-of-the-box thinking and inventive products and services."

Aurora, Colorado, 22 Oct 2024 – Lohocla Research Corporation, a pioneering force in the field of advanced pharmaceutical development, is honored to announce its recognition as one of ten winners of the 2024 Colorado Inno Award sponsored by Colorado Inno, "Colorado's premiere source for innovation news," and the Denver Business Journal. This prestigious accolade highlights Lohocla Research's commitment to driving innovation and excellence through the application of the principles of network pharmacology and rational drug design.

The Lohocla Research proprietary molecular platform originated from a literal back-of-the-(McDonald's®)-napkin sketch and is based upon several distinguishing principles. From the start, the molecules derived from the platform were designed to selectively and simultaneously engage with more than one biological target. These targets were chosen because of their inherent interactivity, which allows for additive or synergistic results to be achieved. The targets, in unison, would be confined to a particular cell type, with Lohocla Research choosing the peripheral sensory nervous system (that is, afferent sensory neurons) as the location of the poly-target entourage for drug engagement. The choice of the peripheral sensory system, rather than the brain, for the location of drug action was based upon the company's focus on treating diseases considered to be centered in the brain but dependent upon signals that the brain receives from the periphery—chronic pain being a notable example. It would be even better if these molecules could normalize a pathologically altered system while leaving normal function intact. For example, transforming intractable chronic pain into normal sensory perception or converting addiction into a neutral response to the agent of dependence.

Company Founder and CEO Boris Tabakoff, Ph.D. said, "When we started down this investigatory path, the pharmaceutical industry was, at best, skeptical and, often, openly antagonistic to the idea that a drug could engage several targets without inducing substantial side effects. Additionally, the idea that 'brain' diseases could be treated with drugs that do not act in the brain met with a similar resistance from insiders."

Nevertheless, through years of extensive pre-clinical work on two derivatives of the molecular platform, Lohocla Research has shown that its concepts are viable, as evinced by the FDA approval of the company's investigational new drug (IND) applications to advance these two lead compounds into

clinical trials. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has also recognized the promise of these new drugs, committing substantial funding through the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA) and through the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) in partnership with the Helping to End Addiction Long-term® (HEAL) Initiative to research the safety and effectiveness of these innovative, rationally designed molecules.

About Chronic Pain

Over 100 million adults in the U.S. suffer from intermittent or constant chronic pain. Moreover, chronic pain affects at least 10 percent of the world's population. The primary pharmaceuticals for treatment of chronic pain have been natural or synthetic opioids, which have resulted in what has been described as an "epidemic" of opioid abuse, addiction, and lethal overdoses.[1] This crisis is exacerbated by the lack of good alternatives to opioids for treating chronic pain.

About Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)

According to the NIAAA, AUD is a "chronic, relapsing brain disease characterized by an impaired ability to stop or control alcohol use despite adverse social, occupational, or health consequences." As of 2019, AUD affected 14.1 million adults[2] and 623,000 adolescents in the US, and data from 2010 estimate an economic burden of $249 billion in the US.[3] Globally, alcohol misuse was the fifth leading risk factor for premature death and disability in 2010.

About Lohocla Research

At Lohocla Research Corporation, we work towards one goal: developing pharmaceutical innovations that improve people's lives. Understanding the challenges posed by chronic pain, neuroinflammation, and addiction, we focus on transforming the lives of patients suffering from these conditions. Built upon a rationally designed, proprietary molecular platform, we have developed a first-of-its-kind molecule that selectively modulates a discrete set of receptors involved in the chronic pain signaling pathway in overactive peripheral nerves as well as a pioneering drug for the treatment of alcohol use disorder, addiction, and craving.

Phonetic pronunciation: low-HOE-kluh

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[1] https://www.cdc.gov/overdose-prevention/about/understanding-the-opioid-overdose-epidemic.html

[2] https://www.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/brochures-and-fact-sheets/understanding-alcohol-use-disorder

[3] https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/features/excessive-drinking.html

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Public Health Relevance Statement

The U.S. and other countries around the world are facing "dual crises of pain and opioid addiction." Lohocla Research Corporation has responded to the opioid crisis and medication development challenge by designing, synthesizing, and demonstrating, in pre-clinical studies, the efficacy and safety of a non-opioid, non-addictive new chemical entity (NCE) for treatment of chronic pain. This NCE, called Kindolor, has significant additional benefits of being able to prevent the development of chronic pain if administered soon after tissue injury, including post-operative conditions. Kindolor also has a highly significant "opioid sparing" effect in conditions that may require the use of opioids, since Kindolor demonstrates a strong synergistic effect with morphine. With FDA approval, we will complete first-in-human, Phase I clinical studies for safety and Phase 2a studies of efficacy to bring our medication to chronic pain sufferers.