

CURZA / UNIVERSITY OF UTAH AWARDED \$1.1 MILLION GRANT FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN AFFAIRS

Grant awarded for further research into anti-biofilm therapy for diabetic foot ulcer infections

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah— August 2016— Curza is pleased to announce the acquisition of a grant funded by the Department of Veteran Affairs titled, “Anti-biofilm Therapy for Diabetic Foot Ulcer Infections.”

One out of four of the 29 million diabetic Americans will likely develop diabetic foot ulcer infections in their lifetime. This is not only a concern for diabetics, but also for our nation as a whole. In 2001, diabetes-related foot ulcers and amputations were estimated to cost U.S. health care payers \$11 billion. The bacteria that commonly cause diabetic foot ulcer infections often form into biofilms, and once in these communities, the bacteria are more resistant to antibiotics.

Unlike many other drugs, Curza’s CZ-01 program has the potential to treat diabetic foot ulcer infections caused by biofilms, as it is the only known compound that effectively disperses and kills the bacteria in well-established biofilms.

Curza’s CZ-01 treatment potential is not limited to treating diabetic foot ulcer infections—it can be applied to several other life-threatening indications. Many of the most difficult to treat, highly resistant bacterial infections—methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, and *Acinetobacter baumannii*—are caused by biofilm-forming pathogens. 6 million Americans are afflicted with biofilm-related infections every year, costing \$25 billion in healthcare costs. At current rates, deaths related to biofilm related infections are projected to surpass cancer deaths by the year 2050, as biofilm-forming bacteria become increasingly resistant to current treatments.

However, hope is not lost; the trend of antibiotic resistance can be reversed. This grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs will help Curza in their efforts to combat diabetic foot ulcer related morbidity and mortality, as well as antibiotic resistance as a whole, by providing the medical community with new and better therapies for its antibiotic arsenal.

About the Department of Veteran Affairs— The Department of Veteran Affairs is a government-run division that supports veterans in their time after service by providing benefits and support. VA Research is unique because of its focus on health issues that affect Veterans. For more information, please visit www.va.gov.phenomenon

About Curza— Curza is a Utah-based drug development company focused on developing novel therapeutics to combat antibiotic resistant bacteria. With original technology licensed from the University of Utah, Curza is in the early stages of developing two novel classes of antibiotics. Headquartered in Salt Lake City, UT with offices in Cambridge, MA, Curza is privately held and is backed by Clarke Capital Partners and other private investors. Visit www.curza.com for more information.

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