

CURZA AWARDED CARB-X GRANT TO ADVANCE NEW CLASS OF ANTIBIOTICS TO TREAT DRUG-RESISTANT GRAM-NEGATIVE BACTERIA

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah—February 16, 2018—Curza, a privately-held small-molecule drug development company, has been awarded a grant of up to \$4 million from CARB-X, a global non-profit partnership dedicated to accelerating the development of antibiotics, vaccines, diagnostics and other products to combat the rising threat of drug-resistant bacteria known as Superbugs.

Antibiotic-resistant superbugs represent a global health crisis, with Gram-negative infections recognized as one of the most serious threats. This partnership will help Curza accelerate the development of its new class of Gram-negative antibiotics, targeting the most difficult to kill drug-resistant bacteria. With increasing resistance to frontline therapies, there is a critical need for developing new antibiotics. Despite this necessity, very few new therapies exist in the development pipeline of the pharmaceutical industry. Curza's efforts will therefore address a critical unmet medical need.

"Curza's new class of antibiotics is an exciting addition to the Powerd by CARB-X portfolio as it has been decades since the last new class was approved for Gram-negative bacteria. The world urgently needs new antibiotics, rapid diagnostics, vaccines and entirely new approaches to protect us from drug-resistant bacteria," said Kevin Outterson, Executive Director of CARB-X.

Curza CEO Ryan Davies said, "We are very honored to receive this prestigious CARB-X award to help advance our novel antibiotic program. This award not only recognizes the potential of our Gram-negative antibiotic program, but it will help fund its development through pre-clinical research to IND preparation."

Curza's lead program is designed to kill bacteria with known resistance to other ribosomal antibiotics by binding to a clinically un-drugged and highly conserved site on the bacterial ribosome. These new antibiotics' unique mechanism of action allows maximum penetration of bacterial cells leading to potent activity against drug-resistant ESKAPE pathogens.

This project will advance Curza's new first-in-class antibiotics through pre-clinical development culminating in IND preparation to initiate a Phase I clinical trial. Funds from this grant will be used to optimize our lead series using structural biology, rigorous biological and biochemical characterization to ensure safety in humans. Dr. Chad Testa will serve as Principal Investigator.

About CARB-X- CARB-X is the world's largest public-private partnership devoted solely to accelerating early development of antibacterial R&D. Funded by ASPR/BARDA and Wellcome Trust, with in-kind support from NIAID, CARB-X is investing up to \$455 million from 2016-2021 to support innovative antibiotics and other therapeutics, vaccines, rapid diagnostics and devices to treat drug-resistant bacterial infections. CARB-X focuses on high priority drug-resistant bacteria, especially Gram-negatives. CARB-X operates through Boston University. Other partners include RTI International, the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT, MassBio and the California Life Sciences Institute (CLSI). <http://www.carb-x.org>.

For CARB-X media inquiries, please contact Jennifer Robinson, carbopr@bu.edu, (514) 914-8974

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.

For Curza media inquiries, please contact: Ryan Davies at rd@curza.com