

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### Media Contacts:

Cathyryne Manner, Life Sciences Discovery Fund

Office: 206-456-9583

[manner@lsdfa.org](mailto:manner@lsdfa.org)

Clare LaFond, University of Washington Center for Commercialization

Office: 206-616-9540 / Cell: 206-953-8532

[clarela@uw.edu](mailto:clarela@uw.edu)

## FIVE WASHINGTON ORGANIZATIONS MAKE JOINT GRANT TO COMMERCIALIZE TRAUMA-CARE DEVICE

SEATTLE, Washington, September 5, 2013 — A product development team at the University of Washington (UW) will receive \$390,000 from five organizations dedicated to fostering technology commercialization in Washington.

The grant will support refinement and clinical testing of a handheld device to improve treatment of trauma, which is the leading cause of death for people under age 45. Trauma patients often die from excessive bleeding; blood loss can be worsened by a hard-to-diagnose condition called trauma-induced coagulopathy (TIC). A team led by Nathan Sniadecki in the UW Department of Mechanical Engineering and Nathan White in the UW Department of Medicine, Division of Emergency Medicine, is developing a tool to rapidly detect TIC and thus permit immediate and appropriate treatment of this life-threatening condition. The device will measure the ability of the blood to clot during trauma, which can take up to half an hour to detect with current technology. The team has also formed a company, Stasys, to license the technology and bring the product to market.

This grant is funded by the Coulter Translational Research Partnership Program at UW, the Institute of Translational Health Sciences, the Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF), the UW Center for Commercialization (C4C), and the Washington Research Foundation.

“Each of our organizations actively funds research and development in Washington to help move promising technologies from the academic into the commercial environment,” explained Patrick Shelby, director of New Ventures at C4C.

“There has been substantial overlap in the projects that we support, with several projects receiving funding from all five programs serially for different work plans. This grant is based on our belief that joint funding for a single work plan will drive faster and more efficient commercial development than serial funding.”

The TIC detection device project was reviewed by external experts for scientific and technical merit, commercial potential, and possible health and economic benefits.

Shelby expressed his desire that based on the success of this initial award, the funding organizations would consider collaborating in funding future grants. John DesRosier, executive director of LSDF, further noted that this was the first time LSDF had partnered with other granting entities and stated that he hoped that this model could be replicated with other Washington universities and institutions.

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## **About the Coulter Translational Research Partnership Program at the University of Washington**

The Coulter Translational Research Partnership Program at the University of Washington (Coulter TRP) is dedicated to improving human health care by supporting translational research in biomedical engineering—research directed at the transfer of promising technologies within the university research laboratory that are progressing towards commercial development and clinical practice. The Coulter TRP is unique in its approach by requiring each funded project to have a participating clinician (unmet medical need) and engineer (solution) working on the team. The Coulter TRP model applies funding as well as internal and external resources needed to move a technology successfully out of the university.

## **About the Institute of Translational Health Sciences**

Translating scientific discoveries into practice often requires a multidisciplinary team. The Institute of Translational Health Sciences (ITHS) is a dynamic organization, set up as a partnership between the University of Washington, Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, and Seattle Children’s Research Institute, along with other regional institutions, communities, and tribal groups. The ultimate goal at ITHS is to improve the health outcomes for people in Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho by providing expertise, education, and funding throughout the research process. The

# Life Sciences

## DISCOVERY FUND

ITHS is one of 61 Clinical and Translational Science award sites, funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

### **About the Life Sciences Discovery Fund**

The Life Sciences Discovery Fund (LSDF) was established in 2005 by Governor Christine Gregoire and the Washington State Legislature to invest in life sciences research and development. Funded by Tobacco Settlement money, LSDF makes grants to promote life sciences competitiveness, enhance economic vitality, and improve health and health care. LSDF promotes commercialization of new health-related technologies in Washington by supporting targeted studies at for-profit and non-profit organizations to validate commercial merit and enable further development, and facilitating connections between Washington's for-profit and non-profit communities to achieve commercialization objectives. To date, LSDF has produced more than a 7:1 return on Washington's investment, including over \$425 million in additional funding and more than \$67 million in health-care cost savings.

### **About the University of Washington Center for Commercialization**

As one of the leading recipients of federal funding for research, the University of Washington (UW) is producing innovations that have the power to change the world—from biofuel alternatives, to more effective treatments for Alzheimer's disease and brain cancer, to purification technology for drinking water in the developing world. The UW Center for Commercialization (C4C) is dedicated to helping UW researchers achieve the greatest impact from their innovations. Over the past four years UW C4C has implemented new programs and integrated its resources to provide one of the best university commercialization centers for UW researchers.

### **About the Washington Research Foundation**

Washington Research Foundation (WRF) was founded in 1981 to assist universities and other non-profit research institutions in the state of Washington with the commercialization and licensing of their technologies. To date, WRF has returned more than \$400 million to the state's research institutions through gifts and licensing disbursements and is recognized as one of the most successful technology transfer organizations in the country.