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FORGE Life Science Named one of 2016's Best University Startups

Company Based on Princeton University Research Recognized by National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer

Doylestown, PA – Sept. 7th, 2016 – [FORGE Life Science](#), a startup based on research conducted at Princeton University, has been named one of the year's best university startups by the National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer.

FORGE Life Science is developing broad-spectrum antiviral compounds that work with the body's natural defenses against viral infection. The approach builds on research led by Princeton University professors Thomas Shenk, the James A. Elkins Jr. Professor in the Life Sciences, and Ileana Cristea, professor of molecular biology. With funding from the National Institutes of Health, Shenk and Cristea discovered that certain proteins known as sirtuins play a role in fighting off viruses in the body.

The company is developing small molecules that modulate the activity of sirtuins to fight infection. Since sirtuins can inhibit more than one type of virus, the approach could result in a single treatment capable of targeting multiple viruses at once.

“Our goal is to treat multiple viral infections with one medication without the risk of evolving drug-resistant viruses,” said Lillian Chiang, FORGE Life Science’s President and CEO. “This could change how we practice medicine.”

Drugs that target multiple viruses could enable a doctor to prescribe a drug based on symptoms, much the way doctors prescribe broad-spectrum antibacterial drugs today. This could eliminate the need for expensive tests to identify the virus. Sirtuin-based antivirals could also help treat viruses that infect immunocompromised patients who are particularly at risk for complications and are difficult to treat because their immune system is suppressed. Immunocompromised patients include the very young and the elderly, HIV patients, and patients taking immunosuppressive therapies to receive a transplant or for autoimmune conditions, such as arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

Located in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, FORGE Life Science is funded by the National Institutes of Health Small Business Innovation Research program and by private investors.

About FORGE Life Science

FORGE Life Science was founded on breakthrough discoveries made at Princeton University. Whereas immuno-oncology drugs engage the patient’s immune system to fight cancer, FORGE antivirals engage the cell’s intrinsic immunity to defend against infection. FORGE’s vision is to develop first-in-class antivirals that are safe, address the problem of acquired drug-resistance, and provide unique broad-spectrum treatment options. This will transform the practice of medicine because FORGE products will address the infectious disease condition holistically as opposed to targeting a specific virus-type. Learn more at www.forgelifescience.com