



PO Box 3131
Boulder, CO 80307
www.suvica.com

For Immediate Release:

SUVICA, INC. AWARDED SBIR PHASE 1 NCI CONTRACT TO STUDY ITS LEAD MOLECULES IN PRECLINICAL MODELS OF HEAD AND NECK CANCER

September 24th, 2013: SuviCa, Inc., a private cancer drug discovery and development company that applies its proprietary screen to identify small molecule anticancer agents, announced today that it has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase 1 contract from the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Through the terms of the contract, SuviCa will discover and develop small molecule drugs against Head and Neck Cancers (HNC). The focus is on drug candidates that target processes critical for re-growth of the cancer after radiation treatment. SuviCa will perform preliminary pharmacokinetics and toxicity studies and test the efficacy of a proprietary drug candidate in combination with radiation in preclinical models of human HNC.

Head and Neck Cancers remain hard to control even with surgery and high doses of radiation, both of which have devastating side effects. New drugs that enhance standard therapies by reducing resistance and preventing re-growth after these treatments have the potential to improve clinical practice. Successful completion of this project will yield a drug candidate that can be carried into PD/ADME/toxicology studies towards IND filing.

The project will be guided by Dr. Tin Tin Su, co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer, and Dr. Bert Pronk, VP of Preclinical Development. In addition, SuviCa will be working closely with Dr. Daniel Gustafson, Professor, Department of Clinical Sciences and School of Biomedical Engineering, Shipley University Chair in Comparative Oncology and Director, Pharmacology Core, University of Colorado Comprehensive Cancer Center, throughout this SBIR. Dr. Gustafson's laboratory focuses on developing therapeutic treatment modalities for cancer with an emphasis on pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.

"We are honored to be awarded this contract as it provides SuviCa an opportunity to validate a novel approach to cancer treatment" said Dr. Judith Hemberger, CEO of SuviCa. "SuviCa has chosen to target HNC, an indication with potential for orphan drug designation, due to the cancer's aggressive nature and the limited options for patients once the tumors become resistant to radiation. This contract will provide the company critical funds to conduct key research."

This program is funded with Federal funds from the National Institute of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, under Contract HHSN261201300021C.

About SuviCa, Inc.: SuviCa, Inc. is focused on the discovery and development of small molecules for the treatment of cancer. Current cancer therapeutics consist mostly of DNA damaging agents, nucleotide analogs, topoisomerase inhibitors, microtubule poisons, and targeted agents such as kinase inhibitors. Frequently, monotherapy with these agents does not provide sufficient benefit or patients may develop resistance over time, therefore combination regimens are needed. SuviCa's compounds target an under-exploited cellular mechanism that is critical for cancer re-growth after treatment with these standard cancer therapies, providing opportunities for new treatment combinations.

SuviCa Contact: Callie Weiant – callieweiant@suvica.com or 303-921-6680

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