NeuroSigma Receives Notice of Award from NIH for an STTR Grant for its Trigeminal Nerve Stimulation Therapy for Epilepsy

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LOS ANGELES, Sept. 6, 2011 /PRNewswire/ -- NeuroSigma, Inc., a Los Angeles-based medical device company, today announced it has received a notice of award for an NIH Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Phase I grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). This will support further development of external trigeminal nerve stimulation (eTNS™) therapy for the treatment of drug-resistant epilepsy, for which NeuroSigma is the exclusive worldwide licensee of intellectual property developed by the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The STTR program requires that the small business collaborates with a non-profit research institution, which must perform at least 30% of the work. UCLA's role as a subcontractor in this project is primarily focused on conducting the human clinical studies.

NeuroSigma's grant award from NINDS extends over a period of approximately two years and will provide total funding of approximately $750,000, with the second year of funding subject to the availability of funds and satisfactory progress during the first year. The NINDS STTR program may provide up to an additional $3 million of follow-on Phase II funding for additional clinical studies. The major focus of the project is clinical testing of a new proprietary eTNS™ pulse generator and animal and human testing of a new generation of electrodes designed to mitigate minor skin irritation, which was the primary side-effect reported by subjects in the Phase I and recently completed Phase II clinical trials.

NeuroSigma's eTNS™ system utilizes a self-adhesive conductive pad applied to the forehead to stimulate branches of the trigeminal nerve, which are located very close to the surface of the skin of the forehead. The trigeminal nerve is the largest cranial nerve, offering a high-bandwidth pathway for signals to enter the brain.

Drs. Christopher
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SOURCE [1]

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