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TheraCarb Inc. Receives \$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations Grant for Innovative Global Health Research

TheraCarb Inc. announced today that it has received a US\$100,000 Grand Challenges Explorations grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The grant will support an innovative global health research project titled "Testing of a therapeutic PolyBAIT concept for in vivo protection against Cholera Toxin."

TheraCarb's project is one of 104 grants announced by the Gates Foundation for the first funding round of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to help scientists around the world explore bold, new solutions for health challenges in developing countries. The grants were provided to all levels of scientists in 22 countries and five continents.

To receive funding, TheraCarb showed in a two-page application how its idea falls outside current scientific paradigms and could lead to significant advances in global health if successful.

Previous research by TheraCarb's scientists has depicted excellent therapeutic profiles of a platform drug technology (PolyBAIT) for the neutralization of toxins associated with the bacteria, *Escherichia coli* O157:H7- the main cause of acquired kidney deficiency in industrialized countries. Support from the Gates Foundation will allow TheraCarb to test PolyBAIT for effective treatment against Cholera toxin.

The current state of Cholera treatment necessitates alternative strategies that would address issues such as increased mortality in addition to appropriate prevention of the disease. Traditional antibiotics only help shorten the duration of the disease without curing it entirely, while offering additional challenges of drug resistance. It has so far been estimated by the World Health Organization (WHO) that proper treatment of this disease may decrease the case-fatality rate from a 30-50% to below 1%.

"We are delighted to receive this prestigious award which will allow us to expand the application of our platform technology and further validate our approach to drug development" says Dr. Mary Earle, President and CEO of TheraCarb Inc.

“I congratulate each individual who took the initiative to share their idea with us to help fight the world’s most serious diseases,” said Dr. Tachi Yamada, president of the Gates Foundation’s Global Health Program. “The number of creative approaches we received exceeded our highest aspirations. Projects from this initial pool of grants have the potential to transform health in developing countries, and I will be rooting for their success.”

About Grand Challenges Explorations

Grand Challenges Explorations is a five-year \$100 million initiative of the Gates Foundation to promote innovation in global health. The program uses an agile, streamlined grant process – applications are limited to two pages, and preliminary data are not required. Proposals are reviewed and selected by a committee of foundation staff and external experts, and grant decisions are made within approximately three months of the close of the funding round.

Applications for the second round of Grand Challenges Explorations are being accepted through November 2, 2008, and topics for the third round will be announced in early 2009. Grant application instructions, including the list of topic areas in which proposals are currently being accepted, are available at www.gcgh.org/explorations.

About TheraCarb Inc:

TheraCarb Inc. is an Alberta-based biotechnology company developing medicines for diseases with no known cure. With a vaccine and drug platform technology the company is focused on pre-clinical and early clinical proof of concept studies, developing late stage products through partnerships. TheraCarb’s lead vaccine candidate is designed to treat infections from *Candida albicans*, and is being advanced through a strategic alliance with Wellstat Vaccines (Gaithersburg, MA). www.theracarb.com