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Jim Finster
Lohocla Research Corporation
(303) 645-3788
jim@lohocla.com

Local Biotech Firm Receives NIH Funding for First-in-Human Trials for Opiate-Sparing Drug for Chronic Pain Treatment

Focusing on non-addictive pain treatment, Lohocla Research Corporation proceeds to the second phase of their NIDA-funded study with their first-in-class, multi-target therapeutic

Aurora, Colorado, 20 July 2021 – Lohocla Research Corporation announced that it received approval from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) to proceed to the second phase of its drug-development collaborative project investigating Lohocla's first-in-class, non-opiate small molecule for treating chronic pain. Part of the NIH HEAL Initiative,ⁱ this project will begin first-in-human trials in this phase of the research plan.

Acknowledging the promise of this new drug, Kindolor, NIDA has committed five years of funding to researching the safety and effectiveness of the innovative, rationally designed chemical entity.

Over 100 million adults in the U.S. suffer from intermittent or constant chronic pain. Moreover, chronic pain affects at least 10 percent of the world's population. The primary pharmaceuticals for treatment of chronic pain have been natural or synthetic opioids, which has resulted in what has been called an "epidemic" of opioid abuse, addiction, and lethal overdoses.ⁱⁱ This crisis results from the lack of good alternatives to opiates for treating chronic pain.

Kindolor is significant because it can effectively treat chronic pain by acting on the peripheral nervous system. In contrast, opiates work primarily in the central nervous system, spinal cord, and brain, and so cause addiction. Moreover, not only is Kindolor able to ease pain on its own, it can be used in concert with opiates in order to reduce the necessary opiate dosage, mitigating the risk of opiate abuse and overdose.

Company CEO Dr. Boris Tabakoff said, "The breakthrough was the design of a molecule that addresses three important generators of chronic pain without affecting other targets. We have demonstrated that this approach results in a very effective medication that could truly work as a substitute for or adjunct to opiates and could reduce opiate use severalfold."

About Lohocla Research: At Lohocla Research Corporation, we work towards one goal: developing pharmaceutical innovations that improve people's lives. Understanding the challenges of chronic pain and addiction, we focus on transforming the lives of patients suffering from these conditions. Built upon a rationally designed, proprietary molecular platform, we have developed a first-of-its-kind

molecule that selectively modulates a discrete set of receptors involved in the chronic pain signaling pathway in overactive peripheral nerves as well as a pioneering drug for the treatment of alcohol use disorder and addiction.

www.lohocla.com

ⁱ <https://heal.nih.gov>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html>