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Iasis Molecular Sciences Awarded \$1.25 Million for Antimicrobial Catheter Translational Research

Spokane, Wash. – Iasis Molecular Sciences Corporation (IMSC) has been awarded a \$1.25 Million translational research grant from the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program’s Spinal Cord Injury Research Program ([CDMRP Spinal Cord Injury Research Program](#)). The CDMRP has funded IMSC’s antimicrobial catheter development for a three-year project entitled: “*Preclinical Investigations of a Novel Antimicrobial Urinary Catheter for Improving Genitourinary Dysfunction.*” The research will address all necessary FDA requirements for manufacturing and validation of IMSC’s novel composite silicone rubber and its conversion to a Foley catheter readied for regulatory submission.

The CDMRP Spinal Cord Injury Research Program supports translational research to advance the treatment and management of spinal cord injury and ameliorate its consequences relevant to injured U.S. Service Members. One consequence of spinal cord injury is a need for catheterization to drain the bladder.

IMSCs novel composite catheter is wholly antimicrobial (tip, balloon, and main body), setting it apart from today’s products that rely on antimicrobial coatings. “Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections are a significant burden for patients and our healthcare system,” said **David Vachon**, IMSC CEO. “This is a tremendous win for our team and speaks to the value and the promise of our technology for those with spinal cord injury and other conditions requiring (urinary) catheterization”.



The funded development effort will be carried out in partnership with established contract manufacturers including Spectrum Plastics Group (www.spectrumplastics.com, Tucson, AZ,). The resulting clinic-ready product will subsequently undergo a preclinical performance evaluation conducted in collaboration with Dr. Thomas Chi, MD, University of California, San Francisco (www.linkedin.com/in/thomaschi8/)

Vachon also said that the prestigious award is another indicator of the growing life sciences ecosystem in Eastern Washington. As a Spokane-based life sciences entrepreneur, Vachon was able to take advantage of a grant-writing assistance program funded by the Health Sciences and Services Authority (HSSA) of Spokane County. This program funds an experienced consultant to assist with developing a more successful research application. HSSA also matches grant awards up to \$500,000, allowing entrepreneurs to grow their businesses without turning to equity investment too early in their lifecycles. This can help founders sidestep significant dilution that can occur in early funding rounds.

In addition, Vachon said that the 2020 launch of SP3NW (<https://sp3nw.org/>), a regional start-up hub working at all WSU campuses to launch life science companies, is a key asset for life sciences entrepreneurs in Eastern Washington.

The CDMRP Spinal Cord Injury Research funding (\$1.25M + indirect costs) aligns with and extends the development of IMSC's novel materials platform and compliments recent awards Iasis has received from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at NIH (\$225,000) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (\$225,000).

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About Iasis Molecular Sciences Corporation - IMSC (www.iasismolecular.com) is a Spokane Washington-based life sciences company specializing in advanced materials to address healthcare-



associated infections and the threat of antimicrobial resistance. IMSC's proprietary materials technology is protected by several patents filed in the U.S. and other countries.

About the CDMRP Spinal Cord Injury Research Program - The Spinal Cord Injury Research Program (SCIRP) was established by Congress in fiscal year 2009 (FY09), in part as a response to the high rates of SCI in Warfighters returning from duty. The Congressional intent was to establish a program to enhance the long-term care of wounded Soldiers. To date, the SCIRP has invested more than \$200 million into research and development efforts guided by their vision to advance the treatment and management of SCI, and to ameliorate its consequences for injured Service Members.