



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

Use of Aged Rats as a Relevant Preclinical Model for the Development of Therapeutics for Cognitive Aging and Alzheimer's Disease

Aging is the leading risk factor for Alzheimer's disease (AD). Developing treatments targeting the underlying neurodegenerative mechanisms that mediate cognitive aging may also prevent and slow Alzheimer's disease. To date, AD preclinical investigators have primarily focused on target-based transgenic mouse models that do not fully recapitulate the disease and have not translated into efficacious treatments for human AD patients. The aged rat model offers many advantages over transgenic mice as a model for testing AD treatments. Cognitively-impaired aged rats show pathological features common to human Alzheimer's disease, including brain atrophy, synaptic abnormalities, and changes in synaptic plasticity and cognitive impairment. In addition, complex behavior can be better modeled in rats.

To accelerate the discovery of new drugs for cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (ADDF) has partnered with Charles River Discovery and Imaging Services/Cerebricon Ltd. to co-develop and implement a grant program to fund pre-clinical studies focused on proof-of-concept testing of novel compounds in aged rats.

High priority interests for this RFP include:

- Testing of novel compounds and targets proposed to be associated with age-related neurodegeneration and impairment in cognition and behavior
- Employing novel outcome measures and/or biomarkers in the aged rat model

PROGRAM DETAILS: The ADDF will provide grants for one-year duration (up to \$150,000 each) for direct costs only, with the possibility of follow-on funding for one additional year. If the applicant chooses to contract services from Charles River/Cerebricon Ltd., Charles River/Cerebricon Ltd. will cover direct costs of aged rats for use in the study. Alternatively, investigators can purchase aged rats from Charles River/Cerebricon and/or utilize animals and services from their own institutions or from other providers.

Relevant services available from Charles River/Cerebricon Ltd. include Morris Water Maze behavioral testing, *in vivo* 1H-MRS for N-Acetyl-Aspartate and other metabolites, biochemical and histological endpoint assessments, and pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic analysis of compounds in biological fluids.

ELIGIBILITY: Applications may be submitted by non-profit academic institutions and for-profit biotechnology companies, both public and private, worldwide. Please note that funding to biotechnology companies is typically made as a program related investment.

REVIEW PROCESS: The deadline date for applications is **October 5, 2011**. *Submission of a Letter of Intent (LOI) is required by September 21, 2011*. The review process typically takes 90 days. Applications will

be confidentially reviewed by the ADDF and an external Scientific Review Committee. Applications from biotechnology companies will also be reviewed by ADDF's external Business Advisory Board.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: All applications must be submitted electronically at www.alzdiscovery.org.

To further discuss scientific or financial aspects of proposals, please contact:

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For more information regarding the application process, please contact:

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