NanoNewron Awarded $2.5 Million in NIH STTR Phase 2 Grant to Advance its Innovative NN-840 Alzheimer's Disease Program

- The $2.5 million in NIH STTR Phase 2 Grant allows NanoNewron to start IND-enabling activities for the NN-840 program with an IND submission expected next year
- This NIH grant award confirms the scientific and clinical potential of the innovative approach of NanoNewron to treat Alzheimer's disease
- This STTR grant strengthens the collaboration between NanoNewron and Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey where NanoNewron's technology was initially developed

UNION, N.J., September 9, 2025 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) – NanoNewron, a biotechnology startup developing innovative, humanized biologics that cross the blood-brain barrier (BBB) to treat central nervous system (CNS) neurodegenerative diseases based on research developed at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, has been awarded a $2.5 million NIH STTR Phase 2 grant to advance its TNF-alpha inhibitor program for Alzheimer's disease. This non-dilutive funding will support preclinical development and position the company for an IND (Investigational New Drug) submission next year.

NanoNewron's breakthrough technology, developed by Rutgers neuroscientist Luciano D'Adamio, PhD, MD, is engineered to cross the blood-brain barrier and target neuroinflammation and synaptic dysfunction—key drivers of cognitive decline in Alzheimer's— by inhibiting the inflammatory cytokine TNF-alpha.

"Securing this competitive NIH award confirms both the scientific and clinical potential of NanoNewron's approach to treat Alzheimer's disease," said Marco Taglietti, MD, Chief Executive Officer of NanoNewron. "There is still an urgent need for more effective treatments for Alzheimer's disease. Despite decades of research, the current treatments only offer temporary improvements in symptoms and a modest slowdown in cognitive decline. We believe our technology could transform Alzheimer's treatment, much like TNF-alpha inhibitors revolutionized care for systemic inflammatory diseases such as Crohn's disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Indeed, this grant is a testament to our research team's commitment and our ability to translate academic science into meaningful treatments."

"At NanoNewron, we believe that TNF-alpha plays a key pathogenic role in Alzheimer's," said Luciano D'Adamio, PhD, MD., a Professor at Rutgers University and Chief Scientific Officer of NanoNewron. "We developed potent TNF-alpha inhibitor antibodies to be used to treat Alzheimer's and, since these antibodies cannot cross the blood-brain barrier by themselves, we combined them with our NewroBus™ technology, a nanoantibody able to cross the blood-brain barrier by leveraging the transcytosis activity of Transferrin Receptor one (TfR1). These combined products of the NN-840 program have shown very promising results in preclinical models with high inhibition of TNF-alpha activity inside the brain and excellent tolerability. This breakthrough could finally allow targeted biologics to reach the brain in effective concentrations, something that has long limited progress in Alzheimer's research"

"The initial work of NanoNewron has been conducted at Rutgers University, with funding coming also from a significant STTR Phase I NIH grant," said Deborah Perez Fernandez, PhD, MBA, executive director of the Office for Research (OfR) Technology Transfer unit of Rutgers University "Dr. D'Adamio's innovations have the potential to make a positive impact for so many families around the world, and it is another example of the contribution and commitment of Rutgers to advance treatments of neurodegenerative diseases and drive innovation that benefits society." ."

NanoNewron has also partnered with Rutgers in receiving a New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology Catalyst Award to conduct critical research studies in Rutgers laboratories, according to Vince Smeraglia, executive director of the Rutgers Office for Research New Ventures unit. NanoNewron also received a STTR bridge grant from NJCSIT to support work between their Phase 1 and Phase II STTR awards

About NanoNewron

NanoNewron (https://www.nanonewron.com/) is a pioneering biotechnology company dedicated to developing innovative, humanized biologics that cross the blood-brain barrier (BBB) to treat central nervous system (CNS) diseases. Founded by Dr. Luciano D'Adamio, a professor at Rutgers University and holder of the Herbert C. and Jacqueline Krieger Klein Endowed Chair since 2017, NanoNewron leverages cutting-edge nanobody technologies to target neuroinflammatory and neurodegenerative conditions, including Alzheimer's disease and other CNS neurodegenerative pathologies.

NanoNewron is led by Dr. Marco Taglietti, MD, as Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Taglietti was most recently CEO of SCYNEXIS and a veteran in drug development, fund raising and commercialization, who brought to the market more than 30 different products in different therapeutic areas.

About NewroBus™

NewroBus™ is NanoNewron's innovative humanized nanobody designed to target the transferrin receptor 1 (TfR1) for efficient transcytosis across the BBB. This breakthrough technology dramatically enhances the delivery of biologic therapeutic agents to the CNS, significantly increasing their bioavailability and therapeutic potential inside the brain.

About the NN-840 Program

The NN-840 program, NanoNewron's flagship therapeutic products, comprises several bi-functional humanized nanobodies combining robust TNF-alpha inhibitory activity with blood-brain barrier permeability. Built using proprietary TNF-alpha inhibitors and NewroBus™, the NN-840 compounds target neuroinflammatory pathways after efficiently crossing the blood-brain barrier, making it a game-changing treatment for Alzheimer's disease and other CNS neurodegenerative conditions characterized by elevated TNF-alpha levels. The NN-840 compounds are currently advancing through preclinical evaluation in humanized models with IND-enabling studies being started, and an IND submission expected for next year.

Forward-Looking Statement.

This press release contains forward-looking statements regarding NanoNewron LLC, its technologies, and future business plans, including anticipated product development timelines, preclinical and clinical milestones, and market opportunities. These statements are based on current expectations and assumptions and are subject to various risks and uncertainties that could cause actual outcomes to differ materially. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, regulatory requirements, clinical trial results, manufacturing challenges, market dynamics, risks associated with intellectual property rights and infringement claims relating to our products. These statements speak only as of the date of this press release. NanoNewron assumes no obligation to update forward-looking statements or outlook or guidance after the date of this press release whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, except as may be required by applicable law. Research reported in this press release is

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For more information, visit https://www.nanonewron.com/