



South Texas Technology Management Awards \$50,000 to UT Researchers for Proof of Concept Grants

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SAN ANTONIO (February 5, 2010) — South Texas Technology Management (STTM), the regional technology transfer office that serves four University of Texas institutions — UT Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA), UT San Antonio (UTSA), UT Brownsville (UTB), and UT Pan American (UTPA), — today announced two new award recipients of the *Proof of Concept: Short Proposals to Accelerate Research Commercialization (POCsparc)* Grant Program.

The proof of concept grants are intended to support short-term, tightly focused projects to help bridge the gap between promising inventions and market-ready innovations. The *POCsparc* program provides awards of up to \$25,000 to faculty of the four STTM-served institutions to advance UT inventions toward successful commercialization. *POCsparc* awards are funded by the San Antonio Life Sciences Institute (SALSI), a joint program of UTHSCSA and UTSA, and are intended to promote collaboration between institutions. *POCroadrunner (POCrr)* grants are available to UTSA faculty through a supplement to the Emerging Technology Fund award that established the UTSA Institute for Cyber Security.

Of proposals submitted by the October 16, 2009 deadline, two projects were funded at a total of \$50,000. A *POCsparc* grant in the amount of \$25,000 was awarded to Seokyoung Ahn, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at UT Pan American and Mark R. Appleford, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at UT San Antonio. The grant will support a collaborative project for the development of multi-scale metallic implant parts promoting osseointegration. The technology will allow for more stable anchoring of metallic implants to bone, thus reducing pain for the patient and improving the long-term success of hip arthroplasties and other operative procedures.

A *POCrr* grant in the amount of \$25,000 was awarded to Clyde F. Phelix, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Biology at UTSA, and Reto H. R. Asmis, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Clinical Laboratory Sciences at UTHSCSA. The award will support development of a computational biology model for simulation of oxidative stress pathways that cause apoptosis, gene-expression dependent cell death. The project will establish proof of concept for computational modeling systems to simulate complex biological systems. The biological modeling systems will have applications in drug discovery, metabolic analysis and personalized medicine.

For additional information about the *POCsparc* program, including a complete list of award recipients, please visit the STTM [POCsparc website](#) or contact Claude Longoria by e-mail at longoriacc@uthscsa.edu or by telephone at 210-567-2147.

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South Texas Technology Management (STTM) is the regional technology transfer office serving the UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, UT San Antonio, UT Brownsville and UT Pan American. STTM provides comprehensive intellectual property services for technologies developed by faculty, staff and students. STTM is dedicated to the protection and licensing of these technologies in order to further research and development, protect the interests of the faculty and the University, enhance economic development and provide humanitarian value to the community. By facilitating the development and commercialization of UT inventions, STTM is fostering and encouraging the creation of new and cutting-edge technologies.