

Neurolixis is awarded a second grant for its Parkinson's disease drug development program from The Michael J. Fox Foundation

San Diego, July 3, 2013 - Neurolixis Inc. has been awarded a second research grant by The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) to investigate the activity of novel serotonin 5-HT_{1A} receptor agonists in models of Parkinson's disease.

With this grant, Neurolixis will evaluate the ability of NLX-112, a Phase 2-ready 5-HT_{1A} agonist in preclinical models of Parkinson's disease, specifically to assess the potential for reducing levodopa-induced dyskinesia, uncontrollable and disruptive movements caused by long-term use of levodopa. Aside from Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS), there is no FDA-approved treatment for dyskinesia, and finding effective therapies to reduce dyskinesia remains a top priority for MJFF.

Although Parkinson's disease is primarily caused by dysfunction of dopaminergic neurons, serotonergic neuron function is also perturbed, suggesting that serotonergic drugs may address some of the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. However, current 5-HT_{1A} agonists are poorly selective, metabolically unstable and/or insufficiently active. "This project will examine the effects of a novel, highly selective and efficacious agonist targeting 5-HT_{1A} receptors in those brain regions relevant to motor control," stated Dr. Newman-Tancredi, Principal Investigator on the project. "This strategy may also improve the non-motor symptoms that are frequently observed in PD patients, such as anxiety and depression, because activation of 5-HT_{1A} receptors is known to attenuate mood deficits."

The new one-year grant constitutes an expansion of a previous MJFF grant awarded to Neurolixis in December 2011. This generated promising results which will be presented at MJFF's 7th Annual Parkinson's Disease Therapeutics Conference in New York City on October 24, 2013, and at the Society for Neuroscience meeting in San Diego, California, in November 2013. If the new studies are successful, Neurolixis aims to take NLX-112 into proof-of-concept Phase 2 clinical trials in Parkinson's disease patients.

About The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

As the world's largest private funder of Parkinson's research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's disease and improved therapies for those living with the condition today. The Foundation pursues its goals through an aggressively funded, highly targeted research program coupled with active global engagement of scientists, Parkinson's patients, business leaders, clinical trial participants, donors and volunteers. In addition to funding more than \$325 million in research to date, the Foundation has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress toward a cure. Operating at the hub of worldwide Parkinson's research, the Foundation forges groundbreaking collaborations with industry leaders, academic scientists and government research funders; increases the flow of participants into Parkinson's disease clinical trials with its online tool, Fox Trial Finder; promotes Parkinson's awareness through high-profile advocacy, events and outreach; and coordinates the grassroots involvement of thousands of Team Fox members around the world.

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About Neurolixis

Neurolixis Inc. is an emerging biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of novel drugs for the treatment of human central nervous system diseases including Parkinson's disease, Rett's syndrome, depression and schizophrenia.

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