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By Tracey Swartz
USF CONNECT

Life Science startup joins USF Tampa Bay Technology Incubator

TAMPA, Fla. (July 2, 2013) – Ascension Bio, LLC. has joined the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI), part of USF CONNECT at the University of South Florida (USF).

Ascension Bio is a life sciences startup specializing in nucleic acid delivery technology. The company manufactures and distributes DNA transfection kits that allow researchers to deliver genetic materials into cancer cells. The first Ascension Bio transfection kit, named EZplex™, is based upon patented amino acid based polymer technology that interacts with and compacts genetic material for efficient delivery into cancer cells.

Ascension Bio was founded in May of 2013 as a subsidiary company of TBTI alumni, Intezyme Technologies, Inc. Cofounders, Dr. Habib Skaff and Dr. Kevin Sill moved Intezyme from Massachusetts in 2004 to the Tampa Bay area to develop and commercialize their patented IVECT™ Method technology, a platform for increasing the efficiency of drug delivery and improving patient outcomes.

Ascension Bio is currently beta testing EZplex kits with a planned commercial release later in 2013. “We at Ascension Bio are very excited about this new business opportunity and the launch of the EZplex transfection kit,” remarked Dr. Janni Mirosevich, Manager of Ascension Bio. “The lab space and facilities provided by TBTI provide us with an ideal environment for starting this new venture.”

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USF CONNECT focuses on the needs of Tampa Bay's technology and bio/life sciences entrepreneurs throughout the business life cycle, providing the facilities, partners and resources for successful business development. USF CONNECT offers access to technologies, workforce programs, technology commercialization, critical research equipment, and incubator facilities, adding value and delivering targeted, high level expertise to its member businesses.

The Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI) is one vehicle through which USF CONNECT grows successful companies. TBTI supports technology research as a catalyst for economic development and advocates the creation and development of facilities for high-technology companies and related support functions.

The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF ranks 50th in the nation for federal expenditures in research and total expenditures in research among all U.S. universities, public or private, according to the National Science Foundation. Serving more than 47,000 students, the USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion and an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference.

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