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**Oncoplus Pharma Joins the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator**

**TAMPA, Fla. (March 11, 2013)** – Oncoplus Pharma is the newest company to join the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI), part of USF CONNECT at the University of South Florida.

Oncoplus Pharma is a small molecule drug discovery company that develops and commercializes innovative therapies that treat cancer and other advanced diseases by developing new chemical entities using rational drug discovery. Oncoplus Pharma holds a patent and currently has active drug discovery programs in initial stages of development.

The company is working rapidly to advance promising lead compounds through lead optimization, drug candidate selection, and preclinical development. Recent efforts focus on targeting the protein Kinase x, a non-receptor tyrosine kinase (NRTK). This protein has been reported to promote cancer growth by shutting down tumor suppressing proteins. The company has developed novel small molecules that inhibit Kinase x and have shown strong anticancer activity with in vitro and in vivo animal models.

Oncoplus Pharma is dedicated to the development and commercialization of innovative therapies that improve the lives of patients with cancer and other advanced diseases. The company pursues this mission by maintaining its commitment to scientific excellence and the highest quality standards. It has a core competence in oncology in preclinical and clinical research, product development and commercialization.

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*USF CONNECT ([usfconnect.org](http://usfconnect.org)) 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) ([.research.usf.edu/rf/tbti.asp](http://.research.usf.edu/rf/tbti.asp)) 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 ([usf.edu](http://usf.edu)) 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 Big East Athletic Conference.*

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