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Tampa Bay Technology Incubator companies invited to present at the Southeast BIO Investor Forum
Modulation Therapeutics, Inc. and Thar Pharmaceuticals, Inc. to showcase at the Southeast region's premier bioscience and medical technology conference

TAMPA, Fla. (Oct. 5, 2012) –Bioscience and medical technology companies considered among the most promising in the Southeast region will be presenting at the Southeast BIO (SEBIO) Investor Forum Oct. 31 through Nov. 1 in Palm Beach, FL. Modulation Therapeutics and Thar Pharmaceuticals, two companies in the Tampa Bay Technology Incubator (TBTI), at the University of South Florida (USF), are among 24 companies invited to present.

The SEBIO Investor Forum provides a setting for emerging life science and medical technology companies to interact and connect with investors and industry partners throughout the nation. The event is expected to attract over 400 attendees, including executives, investors from 30 venture capital funds, and representatives from top universities and institutes in the region.

Modulation Therapeutics is an early-stage biotech company that develops methods of cancer treatment targeting cell adhesion receptors. The company has a license from Moffitt Cancer Center for MTI-101, a compound that binds to the cell adhesion molecule CD44 to disrupt tumors from homing to the bone.

In addition to the SEBIO Investor Forum, Modulation Therapeutics will be presenting at the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) Investor Forum in San Francisco on Oct. 9 and 10. The program provides opportunities for venture-stage companies to network with key players in the life science industry, attend workshops led by industry experts, and hold one-on-one meetings with investors.

“Modulation Therapeutics is very pleased to be invited to present our investment opportunities at the BIO Investor Forum in San Francisco and at the SE BIO Investor Forum in Palm Beach,” said Dr. Mark McLaughlin, senior member of the drug discovery department at Moffitt. “We believe that targeting the tumor microenvironment is key to effectively treating relapsed myeloma and that the unique necrotic cell pathway of MT-101 will allow it to work well with frontline and relapsed myeloma therapies.”

The company joined TBTI in early 2012 and was recently awarded a \$156,202 Phase 1 SBIR grant from the National Cancer Institute as well as a \$500,000 Biotech Investment Award from Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

Another TBTI company presenting at the SEBIO Investor Forum, Thar Pharmaceuticals, will be exhibiting its technology to potential investors and industry partners. The pharmaceutical company is a spin-off of Thar Technologies and joined the TBTI in February of 2007.

Thar utilizes proprietary chemistry technology that focuses on altering on-the-market intravenous drugs into orally administered treatments. This process improves drug performance and eliminates costs associated with IV drug administration. Thar's leading product, T121, is an oral version of an IV administered cancer treatment drug. With human clinical trials to begin this year, the drug is expected to reduce side effects and save patients almost \$4,000 in IV administration costs.

“Thar Pharmaceuticals looks forward to presenting its low risk approach to reinventing known, safe oncology drugs that reduce the total cost of cancer care,” said Raymond Houck, president and CEO of Thar Pharmaceuticals. “We will be presenting our lead cancer drug program and the economic benefits of transforming an IV-only drug into an oral therapy.”

For more information regarding the SEBIO Investor Forum visit <http://southeastbio.org/investorforum/2012/default.aspx>.

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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 Big East Athletic Conference.

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