

Director's Decree **V2016-01**

August 22, 2016

Gilead Sciences Research Center at IOCB Prague 2016-2021 (GSRC-3)

As previously communicated, leadership of Gilead Sciences Inc. decided to fund GSRC-3 with an annual donation of 1.35 million USD to support the academic research at IOCB that may lead to potential applications in various therapeutic areas.

Total of 17 proposals from IOCB have been submitted and they were evaluated by a 7-member evaluation committee at Gilead. The recommendations and comments regarding the individual proposals were sent to the IOCB leadership and they were used as basis for selecting new members of GSRC-3.

The evaluation committee divided the proposals into three categories: Excellent, Good, and Acceptable/Lower interest to Gilead.

Four proposals were classified as Excellent and of high interest to Gilead:

- Natural product-inspired macrocycles – Concert of theory and synthesis toward biological activity.
PI: Ullrich Jahn, co-PI: Lubomír Rulíšek
- Targeting STING for treatment of chronic HBV and cancer.
PI: Gabriel Birkuš, co-PIs: Radim Nencka, Ivan Rosenberg, Jiří Brynda, Lubomír Rulíšek, Evžen Bouřa, Miroslav Hájek
- Towards novel strategies to target chronic hepatitis B.
PI: Iva Pichová, co-PIs: Jan Weber, Klára Grantz Šašková, Edward Curtis, Ivan Hirsch
- Chemical biology tools for drug discovery.
PI: Jan Konvalinka, co-PI: Pavel Majer

Of the proposals classified as Good the following programs were selected for membership in GSRC-3:

- Original G-quadruplex stabilizers for c-Myc downregulation and cancer therapy: *in situ* click for fragment linking.
PI: Filip Teplý, co-PIs: Erika Kužmová, Václav Veverka, Martin Hubálek, Pavel Hobza, Jiří Vondrášek

- Design, synthesis and biological profiling of novel fused deazapurine nucleosides.
PI: Michal Hocek, co-PI: Helena Mertlíková Kaiserová
- Targeting enzyme exosites by *in situ* click chemistry: New strategy for anticancer drug design.
PI: Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, co-PIs: Milan Vrábel, Kvido Stříšovský, Michael Mareš, Pavel Majer
- Fragment-based design of small-molecule inhibitors of viral replication.
PI: Radim Nencka, co-PIs: Václav Veverka, Evžen Bouřa
- Novel potent inhibitors of key purine salvage enzymes.
PI: Zlatko Janeba, co-PIs: Helena Mertlíková Kaiserová, Pavlína Maloy Řezáčová, Luke W. Guddat, Alena P. Zíková

One proposal has been awarded the GSRC-3 membership conditionally:

- Novel glycomimetics fight pathogens.
PI: Radek Pohl, co-PIs: Kamil Parkan, Jakub Kaminský, Petr Pachl, Marcela Pávová
Gilead is very interested in the chemistry approach outlined in this proposal but was suggesting a different set of possible targets. The team is expected to rethink their program based on these suggestions, generate some preliminary data and resubmit a new proposal to join GSRC-3 at a later stage.

Several interesting and scientifically sound proposals were seen as outside of Gilead's therapeutic area interest and were not considered for membership in GSRC-3. Alternative avenues of supporting such worthy proposals are being considered.

Following the discussions with Gilead, the best time for the Introductory GSRC meeting in Prague attended by Gilead and the new GSRC-3 members from IOCB would be October 17-18, 2016. Please mark your calendars.

Congratulations to all new members of GSRC-3.



Zdeněk Hostomský