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NEWS RELEASE

Myelin Repair Foundation Launches the New MRF Translational Medicine Center

New MRF Team Members Lead the MRF Translational Medicine Center to Advance Myelin Repair Treatments to Patients

SARATOGA, CA – January 4, 2012 --The [Myelin Repair Foundation](#) (MRF) today announced the launch of the new MRF Translational Medicine Center (TMC), dedicated to accelerating the drug discovery process for new multiple sclerosis (MS) treatments. In addition to the eight academic MRF-sponsored laboratories, this state-of-the-art facility will advance potential myelin repair treatment targets toward commercial development through its rigorous, industry-leading [translational medicine platform](#).

“The funding of our core academic laboratories at Stanford, the University of Chicago, Northwestern University and Case Western Reserve has produced a number of potential myelin repair treatment targets,” says Dr. Jay Tung, MRF Vice President of Drug Discovery and Research Operations. “But we recognized some time ago that moving these discoveries forward would require the establishment of a rigorous, industry-standard translational medicine platform in the TMC, managed by our team of biopharma veterans. In order for rapid MS treatment development to reach patients, this translational medicine platform will be a useful tool to evaluate myelin repair discoveries made in any lab, anywhere in the world.”

The management team at the MRF Translational Medicine Center includes Dr. Tassie Collins, Director of Translational Medicine; Dr. Gordon Ng, Director of Pharmacology; and Dr. Jason Dugas, Senior Staff Scientist.

Tassie Collins, Ph. D., Director of Translational Medicine has led drug discovery and development teams in the fields of inflammatory diseases and immune disorders, including multiple sclerosis. During her tenure as Scientific Director at Amgen, she led three small molecule drug discovery teams through IND-enabling development and into clinical studies. She brings to the Myelin Repair Foundation experience in the identification of biomarkers and surrogate markers for measuring drug efficacy, extensive experience guiding collaborative and contract research teams, and over two decades of immunology research. Dr. Collins received her B.A. in Biology from Saint Mary's College of Maryland and her Ph.D. in Immunology from Harvard University.

Gordon Ng, Ph.D., Director of Pharmacology, has served as a Scientific Director in the Inflammation Therapeutic Area at Amgen where he worked on developing therapeutics for a variety of autoimmune, inflammatory, and fibrotic diseases. Dr. Ng has a track-record of establishing productive industrial and academic research collaborations, and has more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and patents. His responsibilities at the MRF include the optimization and scaling up of the capacity to test compounds in multiple animal models for myelin repair. Dr. Ng received his BSc. Degree in Pharmacy from the University of British Columbia, and received his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in pharmacology from the University of Toronto.

Jason Dugas, Ph.D., Senior Staff Scientist, recently completed post-doctoral studies in Dr. Ben Barres's laboratory at Stanford University. Dr. Dugas will be responsible for developing and overseeing the various in vitro models that will be instrumental in our initial lead compound and therapeutic discovery efforts.

About the Myelin Repair Foundation

The Myelin Repair Foundation (MRF) (<http://www.myelinrepair.org>) is a Silicon Valley-based, non-profit research organization focused on accelerating the discovery and development of myelin repair therapeutics for multiple sclerosis. Its [Accelerated Research Collaboration](#)[™] (ARC[™]) model is designed to optimize the entire process of medical research, drug discovery and drug development leading to new patient treatments.