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CMU AND PARTNERS GET FUNDING FOR NEW DENDRIMER IMAGING TECHNOLOGY

MOUNT PLEASANT — Central Michigan University Research Corporation (CMU-RC) has received \$810,000 in federal grant funding to develop dendrimer-based imaging technology that can better detect tumors and other ailments.

The U.S. Small Business Administration granted the funding for this research-based partnership between CMU, CMU-RC and university researchers Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc (DNT), which is housed in Mount Pleasant SmartZone, the university's 300-acre certified technology park.

“Research shows that early diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other scanable diseases are critical determinants for successful treatment,” said Dr. Robert Berry, DNT's chief executive officer. “This approach should provide the medical community with a enhanced, sensitive, non-invasive diagnostic tool for early detection and monitoring of scanable diseases in patients.”

The project will use DNT's Priostar™ dendrimers to develop enhanced dendrimer-based magnetic resonance imaging contrast agents to improve the sensitivity of medical imaging. Preliminary results show contrast agents using dendrimers provide significant improvement over current contrast agents on the market. Improved imaging allows for earlier detection of cancer tumors and other medical conditions and more precision in treatment.

CMU-RC worked closely with Toby Roth, CMU's director of federal relations, and DNT to secure the funding, and it received support for this project from U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, U.S. Rep. Dave Camp and other Michigan delegates.

CMU also has received support for dendrimer research in recent years from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory and the U.S. Economic Development Administration, with the Department of Defense likely to provide more funding next year.

Tomalia is the inventor of dendrimers and founded DNT in 2002. The company has a broad and comprehensive intellectual property portfolio that comprises more than 173 patents and 33 patent families. For more information regarding DNT, visit www.dnanotech.com.

CMU-RC is a non-profit subsidiary of CMU that manages the Mt. Pleasant SmartZone and the 29,000 square foot technology business incubation facility within the park. For more information regarding CMU-RC, visit www.cmurc.com.

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