



28 March - 3 April

COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

- **Cerapedics, Inc.** (Westminster) has raised a \$15M second round of financing. The proceeds of the round will go towards expanding sales and marketing efforts abroad and completing orthopedic clinical trials in the US for the company's i-FACTOR bone healing technology.
- **Merck** completed the purchase of **Insmed's** follow-on biologic platform. The \$130M acquisition included granulocyte-colony stimulating factors (G-CSF) INS-19 and INS-20 as well as the Boulder manufacturing facility. Merck has reportedly offered positions to employees of the Boulder facility.
- **CaridianBCT** (Lakewood) was awarded a grant as part of the US Department of Defense (DOD) Deployment Related Medical Research Program (DRMRP) to work on development of Mirasol Pathogen Reduction Technology (PRT) System, designed to improve the safety of whole blood transfusions in trauma cases. The Mirasol PRT system uses riboflavin and UV light to reduce infectious pathogens and inactivate white blood cells in collected blood, making it safer for transfusion.
- **Covidien** (Boulder) announced the US launch of its Puritan Bennett 540 Portable Ventilator. The 9.9 lb device offers up to 11 hours of battery power depending on settings, and was designed to maximize ease of use and comfort for patients. The power indicator represents a significant advance from the former model in displaying remaining battery life in hours and minutes as opposed to percentage of charge, eliminating any guesswork on the part of the patient.
- **ARCA biopharma** (Broomfield) announced the release of final results for the Phase 3 BEST trial of Gencaro(TM) (bucindolol hydrochloride) in patients with advanced chronic heart failure (CHF). Gencaro showed a near significant benefit on overall mortality (hazard ratio (HR) 0.87; p=0.053), the trial's primary endpoint. The drug demonstrated a significant benefit in slowing progression of heart failure (HR 0.80, p=0.00003), the most important secondary endpoint as specified by the FDA. ARCA had previously released results in September 2008 for 1000 BEST patients in a prospectively-designed DNA sub-study which categorized patients based on expected response to Gencaro through genetic variations.
- **Ceragenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** (Denver) announced that the NIH has awarded a \$1.66M grant to researchers at the University of Utah to investigate the use of its Cerashield Coating in preventing infections on orthopedic implants. The research, to be led by Roy Bloebaum, PhD, a Research Professor at the University of Utah, will fund preclinical research on the use of CSA-13, the active ingredient in Cerashield, as a coating on orthopedic implants.
- **Allos Therapeutics, Inc.** (Westminster) announced today the closing of its previously reported underwritten public offering of 7,750,000 shares of its common stock at the public offering price of \$6.30 per share. The net proceeds from the offering were approximately \$46.8M. The company plans to use the proceeds for activities relating to preparations for the potential commercial launch of pralatrexate, clinical and preclinical research and development of pralatrexate, working capital, and general corporate purposes.

SQUARE PEGS

- OnBioVC has released its trend analysis evaluating Bio investment during March. Two Colorado companies – **Bioptix** (Boulder) and **ZeaChem** (Lakewood) – were among the 27 companies reporting financing in the month.

- A recap of the Northern Colorado Health and Research Coalition spring event focusing on Gerontology is available [here](#).
- A summary of the news conference marking the release of PhRMA's report on cancer drug development is available [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next BioBeers will take place on April 7 at the Twisted Pine Brewery in Boulder at 6:30 pm. Like the February event, April's BioBeers will be a combined event with Startup Drinks. More information is available at the BioBeers [site](#).
- Colorado State University will host the 4th annual BioTech Connect on April 21 beginning at 8 am. The event seeks to bring the BioTech community of Northern Colorado together with students and faculty at Colorado State University. More information and registration details are available [here](#).
- The Bard Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Colorado Denver will co-sponsor a BioBootcamp on April 30 and May 1. More information on applying to participate is available [here](#).

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- CBSA's lobbying team, have provided this week's legislative report.