

Alzheimer's research gets boost

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Treventis receives \$4.7-million award from U.K. organization



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An Alzheimer's disease research effort that originated in Halifax has received a \$4.7 million boost from a United Kingdom organization, officials said Tuesday.

Treventis Corp., a biotech company with research laboratories in Halifax and Toronto, and a business office in Philadelphia, received the award last week from Wellcome Trust.

"It enables us to advance important research that will profoundly and positively impact our efforts to treat people with chronic neurological dementias such as Alzheimer's," Donald F. Weaver, the principal investigator, said in a news release.

Weaver said in an email that Wellcome Trust funding is extremely competitive and most often awarded to research projects in the United Kingdom.

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Treventis spokesman Chris Barden said support from Wellcome Trust advances the research that started at the Treventis laboratory in Halifax. Research is continuing in Halifax and at a second Toronto laboratory.

"Our focus is on the development of a curative therapy and not just a drug that masked the impact of the symptoms," Barden said.

"Support like this from a prestigious medical charity like Wellcome Trust demonstrates that the organization believes in the approach we're taking."

The financing will support research at Treventis to bring a curative Alzheimer's drug to the point where it is a candidate for clinical testing on humans.

Treventis is using a novel, proprietary drug design platform in its research that could have applications in a range of degenerative brain diseases.

William McIntosh, chairman and chief executive officer at Treventis, said the financing from Wellcome Trust is transformational for the biotech company.

"It provides the resources necessary to progress our critically important drug development and validates the scientific approach we have taken," McIntosh said in the news release.

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