



A Viral Therapeutic Company

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**VectorLogics, Inc. with LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport and Qyntessa Biologics, LLC
Awarded an STTR Grant to Develop Breast Cancer Gene Therapy**

BIRMINGHAM, AL – VectorLogics, Inc. announced today that it has received a grant from the National Cancer Institute, a division of the National Institutes of Health, in partnership with LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport, LA and Qyntessa Biologics, LLC in Baton Rouge, LA. The grant is for Phase II of the STTR program and is funded for two years for a total of \$825,000. Earlier, a Phase I of the same grant was funded for one year at \$100,000.

This grant will support the development of a version of the adenovirus designed to seek and destroy cancer cells while leaving healthy tissue unscathed. Although attempted in the past, the concept of turning viruses loose on cancer was abandoned because of toxicity and inefficacy. However, the virotherapy approach has reemerged with great promise, in large part due to better understanding of and the ability to genetically modify viruses.

Virotherapy is a novel form of cancer therapy using genetic engineering to convert viruses into cancer-fighting agents by reprogramming them to only reproduce in cancerous cells while healthy cells remained undamaged.

"Our approach is a conceptually novel method to provide a combination of modifications that are most suitable for attacking breast cancers," said Dr. Michael Mathis, Principal Investigator and Director of the Gene Therapy Program at LSU Health Sciences Center. "Using three different approaches in combination, we expect to substantially improve adenovirus-based virotherapy. Successful completion of this project will lead directly to a clinical trial of our virotherapy agent in patients with breast cancer."

Last year, more than 200,000 women in the United States were diagnosed with breast cancer. It is the most common malignancy and the second leading cause of cancer death in women. Since treatment options currently available are rarely able to cure metastatic breast cancer, novel therapies are sorely needed.

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About VLI: VectorLogics, Inc. is a biotechnology company focused on the development and commercialization of virus based cancer therapies and therapeutic vaccines for viral liver diseases.