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Creatv MicroTech Awarded NIH SBIR Grant for Precision Medicine Diagnostic for Lung Cancer

ROCKVILLE, MD - Creatv MicroTech, a biotechnology company developing non-invasive diagnostics for cancer, has received a \$250,000 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI) to test the company's CellSieve™ system for determination of residual disease in lung cancer patients after chemoradiation therapy, and for early detection of lung cancer recurrence.

Creatv MicroTech's discovery of a very large cell, the cancer associated macrophage-like cell (CAML), in patient blood has enabled more informative and reliable blood based cancer diagnostics. The presence of the CAML biomarker indicates the presence of cancer. Creatv developed CellSieve™ technology to capture and analyze CAMLs.

In collaboration with The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Creatv will assess the use of CAMLs in lung cancer patients to determine residual disease following treatment. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death, with an estimated 158,040 deaths (86,380 men and 71,660 women) from this disease in 2015. Ideally, treatment should be continued as long as necessary and stopped only after the cancer has been eradicated. The problem is that standard imaging techniques, CT and MRI, cannot detect small residual cancers, and thus treatment regimens may be insufficient for a patient's individual need. The goal of Creatv's study is to determine the point at which chemoradiation should be stopped, reducing the likelihood of recurrence.

"We are honored to be recognized for the progress we have made in developing precision blood-based cancer diagnostics," said Cha-Mei Tang PhD, President and CEO of Creatv MicroTech. "Our collaboration with the world renowned MD Anderson Cancer Center and support from the NIH will further demonstrate the value and utility of the CellSieve™ system and CAMLs in the battle against cancer and will ultimately save lives."

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About Creatv MicroTech

Creatv MicroTech (www.creatvmicrotech.com) is a privately held company founded in 2000. Creatv has assembled expertise in biodetection and microfabrication, both of which were applied to develop the CellSieve™ microfiltration platform. Creatv has been recognized by an R&D 100 Award, inclusion on the Micro/Nano 25-Technologies of Tomorrow List, and Montgomery County Maryland's Bioscience Company of the Year Award.

CellSieve™ is a novel technology that enables the isolation and identification of CAMLs, as well as the better-known Circulating Tumor Cells. With data from over 1500 patient samples and 14 different solid tumors, CAMLs have consistently demonstrated utility in the early and reliable detection of cancer.

CellSieve™ assays are currently used in research and clinical trials in the US and eight other countries.