



MP-101 and MP-201 Glaucoma Exploratory Research Grant Awarded to University of Montreal by BrightFocus Foundation in Collaboration with Mitochon Pharmaceuticals

Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. May 8, 2023 -- [Mitochon Pharmaceuticals](#) today is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$200,000 grant from BrightFocus Foundation in conjunction with the University of Montreal Hospital Research Center for “Disease-modifying mitochondrial uncouplers: a new therapeutic strategy for glaucoma.” The mitochondria’s key role in the loss of vision is emerging, and this grant will be used to explore the merits of mitochondrial specific small molecules, MP-101 and MP-201 in models of glaucoma.

“With the mitochondria central to the health of the cell in this symbiotic relationship, it is fascinating to see all the possible applications of MP-101 and MP-201 in modulating mitochondrial physiology. Previous work has shown that MP-201 in optic neuritis model protected the optic nerve and retinal ganglion cells, but now in the laboratory of Dr. Adriana Di Polo, we will explore possible merits in glaucoma to attenuate or reverse the pathogenesis”, says Dr. John Geisler, Ph.D., CSO/co-founder of Mitochon Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

MP-101 and MP-201 are mitochondrial targeted, once-a-day, oral therapies that have been shown to shield cells from damage caused by a host of degenerative processes, including traumatic brain injury (TBI). In preclinical studies, these compounds have exhibited striking protective and functional benefits in disease models, including brain volume sparing in Huntington’s Disease; axonal protection from demyelination in Multiple Sclerosis, preserving the neuromuscular junction and motor skills in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), and preserving neurons in the cortex after blunt trauma. This project will be spearheaded by world-renowned vision expert Dr. Adriana Di Polo at the University of Montreal Hospital Research Center, Canada. “We are very excited to spearhead this work and our preliminary data suggests this may be a novel approach to treating glaucoma,” Dr. Di Polo said.

Diane Bovenkamp, PhD, Vice President for Scientific Affairs at BrightFocus Foundation, added, “We are especially pleased to fund this grant and look forward to the results and, hopefully, this project moving into the clinic.”

About Mitochon Pharmaceuticals

Mitochon was founded in 2015 with the mission to develop treatments for insidious diseases through the modulation of mitochondrial physiology, with applications to neurodegeneration, neuromuscular, and trauma related disorders. Mitochon’s lead programs, MP101 and MP201, specifically harnesses the power of the mitochondria to provide broad neural protection. These compounds, through micro-dosing, elicit mild increases in energy expenditure that result in strengthening cellular survival – similar to the positive effects seen with fasting and exercise. These compounds also induce an important neurotrophin, Brain Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF), boosting cognition and neural growth. **Additional Information:** www.mitochonpharma.com

About BrightFocus Foundation

BrightFocus Foundation is a premier nonprofit funder of research to defeat Alzheimer’s, macular degeneration, and glaucoma. Through its flagship research programs—Alzheimer’s Disease Research, National Glaucoma Research, and Macular Degeneration Research—the Foundation is currently supporting a \$75 million portfolio of 287 scientific projects. BrightFocus has awarded nearly \$300 million in groundbreaking medical research funding since inception and shares the latest research findings, expert information, and English/Spanish disease resources to empower the millions impacted by these devastating diseases. Learn more at brightfocus.org.

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