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Canadian firm, Binghamton U. collaborate on cancer drug

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VESTAL — Binghamton University is collaborating with a Canadian company on testing a new cancer treatment that could aid patients who have few other options.

The company, Sunshine Biopharma, Inc. (OTC BB: SBFM.OB) of Montreal, is developing a drug that targets a specific enzyme present in large quantities in aggressive cancers.

The more aggressive a cancer, the more of this enzyme the cancer cells create, says Steve Slilaty, CEO of Sunshine Biopharma. The company's drug inhibits that enzyme.

The treatment will be especially useful in cases where patients become resistant to other existing drugs, Slilaty adds.

"We've shown in the lab that our drug specifically works on killing cancer cells that are multi-drug resistant," he says.

Slilaty grew up in Binghamton and so decided to reach out to the university there when it came time for more work on the drug. The treatment is currently in the pre-clinical stage of development.

Sunshine Biopharma hopes to begin clinical trials with patients in about 12 to 18 months. Slilaty says the drug will be particularly useful in treating breast cancer and prostate cancer.

He also notes that because the treatment has the potential to help terminally ill patients with no other therapy options, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) approval process may move faster.

The university will test how well Sunshine's drug kills cancer cells in comparison with an existing treatment, says Susannah Gal, a professor at Binghamton University who is heading up the collaboration with the company. Researchers will also perform experiments to understand exactly why the drug is more effective than others.

Gal expects to have two graduate students, two undergraduates, and a technical assistant working on the project.

"We think it's a good relationship to



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Susannah Gal, a professor at Binghamton University who is heading up the collaboration with Sunshine Biopharma, Inc. Gal expects to have two graduate students, two undergraduates, and a technical assistant working on the project.

start with a company," she says.

The project will give undergrads involved experience and contact with the business world. For grad students, the hope is for the project to yield publishable results.

Sunshine Biopharma licensed the drug from the company, Advanomics Corp., that developed it. Advanomics worked on the therapy with a laboratory in France.

Sunshine Biopharma is the licensee for the drug in the U.S. market, Slilaty says.

"Anti-cancer drugs, they have a significant market potential," he adds. "In general, when a new anti-cancer drug comes on the market, it reaches \$1 billion in

annual sales within about two years from approval by FDA."

Slilaty says Sunshine Biopharma expects similar results for its drug.

The company is currently pursuing grants, including from the National Institutes of Health, to fund its research with Binghamton University. Sunshine Biopharma, formed in 2009, is financed by its investors and has not generated revenue yet, according to filings with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC). □

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