



Kineta, Inc. Receives SBIR Funding to Begin Novel Antiviral Research

\$585,000 Federal Grant Will Fund New Research to Enhance Innate Immunity

SEATTLE, WA, Oct., 8, 2008 – Kineta, Inc. announced today that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease of the NIH has awarded a phase one Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant to Kineta for its novel antiviral research. The two year, \$585,000 grant will fund Kineta's early stage research on agonists of the Retinoic Acid Inducible Gene I (RIG-I) Pathway.

"This is substantial validation of Kineta's novel research target, and more, high level acknowledgement of the need for better antiviral drugs. Kineta is in a unique position to deliver next generation drugs for influenza and many other deadly viruses," said Charles L. Magness, Ph. D., President and Chief Executive Officer of Kineta, Inc.

The Kineta team will use its proprietary screening platform to identify compounds that activate the (RIG-I) pathway to neutralize viral infection. RIG-I, is a molecular "on/off" switch that triggers the human body's immune defenses against viruses. Kineta's RIG-I program seeks to develop a unique broad spectrum antiviral drug that is more effective, less toxic and less likely to cause virus mutation and resistance. The research is focused on targeting RNA viruses, including: Hepatitis C, Influenza, West Nile virus and the common cold. Many of these conditions and are among the most challenging to treat because of the limited number of effective drugs.

Kineta was founded by Dr. Magness and Shawn P. Iadonato, Ph.D. who serves as Kineta's Executive Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer. Previously, Drs. Magness and Iadonato co-founded Illumigen Biosciences, Inc. which developed a novel anti-Hepatitis C drug. The rapid development of that drug led to the successful sale of the company in December, 2007.

For more information on today's announcement or to schedule interviews contact Meg O'Connor moconor@kinetabio.com 206-251- 8638

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Kineta, Inc. is a Seattle-based privately held biotechnology company specializing in clinical advancement of drugs that modulate and enhance the human immune system. Our world class scientists are pioneers, developing life-changing classes of drugs that harness the power of the immune system to fight disease. Kineta seeks to improve the lives of millions of people suffering from autoimmune and viral diseases. Our progressive business model focuses on targeting unmet medical needs and on rapid achievement of important clinical milestones. Through careful management of capital, Kineta aims at a strong return for investors. For more information on Kineta Inc. visit our website, www.Kinetabio.com

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