



Healionics Receives STTR Grant from National Institutes of Health (NIH) to Develop New Artificial Cornea

Redmond, WA (October 9, 2009)—Healionics Corporation has received a \$116,000 grant from the National Eye Institute (NEI) division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) towards development of an artificial cornea incorporating STAR[®] biomaterial. Healionics' Chief Technology Officer, Dr. Max Maginness, and Dr. Tueng T. Shen, Associate Professor of Ophthalmology, University of Washington (UW), are the Principal Investigators for this research project.

Titled, "Artificial Cornea Using New Biomaterials," the grant provides one-year funding for researching a new artificial cornea design featuring Healionics' flagship STAR[®] biomaterial. The aim of this project is to offer a new solution to combating corneal blindness by creating an artificial cornea that incorporates STAR[®] biomaterial at its edges to better integrate with host tissue and accelerate the healing process.

When the cornea, the tissue in front of the eye, becomes opaque, blindness occurs. Some 12 million people worldwide suffer from this condition. It is also one of two most common causes of treatable blindness. Currently the established treatment requires replacing the cornea with human donor tissue. With the scarcity of donor eyes, only about 100,000 of these surgeries are performed annually. In addition, with more people receiving LASIK, a procedure that cuts through the cornea, many potential donor eyes are unusable. Although there are existing artificial corneas on the market, these have limited application. They do not integrate well with the eye, and because the surgical procedures are complex, only few centers in the United States offer the procedure.

The NIH award will take the Healionics and UW team a significant step closer towards a potential replacement cornea for human use. With so many suffering from corneal blindness, an improved artificial cornea implant with a simple surgical procedure would be a major advance in treatment.

More information about STTR grants from the National Institutes of Health can be found at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/funding/sbir.htm>.

About Healionics Corporation

Healionics is a privately held biomaterials company whose mission is to be the leading provider of tissue regeneration and device biointegration solutions to healthcare manufacturers. The Company's flagship STAR[®] - Sphere Templated Angiogenic Regeneration – biomaterial scaffold is a next generation biomaterial scaffold designed to enhance biointegration and promote healing of implanted medical devices. Healionics Corporation is headquartered in Redmond, Washington. For more information, please visit <http://www.healionics.com>.

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