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**Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation Announces New Grant Funding for Brain Research**  
*Organization accepting applications for neuroscience initiatives involving Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism, ALS, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Mental Health and other brain disorders*

RICHMOND, VA – September 23, 2015 – The Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC/“the catalyst”) today announced that it is accepting applications/letters of interests (LOIs) for round five of grants to fund the development, validation and application of new approaches to diagnosing, preventing and treating brain injuries, brain developmental disorders, neurodegenerative disorders, neuropsychiatric and behavioral disorders and addiction and substance abuse. The awards, which range from \$200,000 to \$800,000, will accelerate translational research in the Commonwealth of Virginia through collaborations between industry and Virginia research universities. The deadline for consideration is October 21, 2015. Applications/LOIs and grant criteria can be downloaded from the VBHRC website ([www.vbhrc.com](http://www.vbhrc.com)).

“VBHRC’s fifth round of funding is a pilot program in the neurosciences that is limited to one to three outstanding projects where at least two of Virginia’s research universities are collaborating with an industry partner,” said Mike Grisham, CEO, VBHRC/“the catalyst.” “Future VBHRC funding rounds will be open to projects throughout the life sciences, including cardio/metabolic diseases, drug discovery and cancer. This round will establish a template for accelerating the development and commercialization of the innovative neuroscience technologies that our research universities are developing. These technologies can lead to the identification, treatment and prevention of many brain and behavioral disorders. Our goal is to help achieve breakthroughs that improve human health, while also providing an economic foundation upon which new products, companies and jobs can be created in Virginia.”

VBHRC/“the catalyst” is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation funded by the Virginia General Assembly’s general fund and six of Virginia’s research universities including Eastern Virginia Medical School, George Mason University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) and Old Dominion University. This round of funding is part of the Virginia Neuroscience Initiative, a new effort intended to coordinate and advance the state’s excellence in neuroscience research by expanding partnerships, infrastructure and resources. “These grants support VBHRC’s effort to catalyze researchers and industry in the Commonwealth, with the goal of becoming ‘The Brain State,’ and having Virginia be recognized as a national and global leader in the neurosciences,” added Grisham.

**About the Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation**

The Virginia Bioscience Health Research Corporation (VBHRC), also known as “the catalyst,” is a state created non-profit corporation. VBHRC’s mission is to improve human health by accelerating translational research through collaborations between Virginia research universities and industry. By creating an environment that makes Virginia a leader in collaborations, innovation and job creation. These conditions, in turn, will advance ideas and technology from academia to industry to health care delivery and outcomes.

VBHRC evaluates grant applications on a semi-annual basis. Award recipients are those which accelerate translational research and commercialization. Letters of intent, applications and awards are accepted and evaluated on a rolling basis, and awards range from \$200,000 to \$800,000. For more information and to download a copy of the LOI template, visit [www.vbhrc.com](http://www.vbhrc.com).

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