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**Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation, “the catalyst”, Announces Round Six of Grant Funding to Improve Human Health Through Collaboration with Virginia Research Universities and Industry**

*Organization accepting applications to accelerate translational research of breakthrough technologies in the life sciences to grow companies and jobs in Virginia*

RICHMOND, VA – June 30, 2016 – The Virginia Biosciences Health Research Corporation (VBHRC/“the catalyst”) today announced that it is accepting applications/letters of interests (LOIs) for the sixth round of grants. VBHRC/“the catalyst” awards grants that fund the development, validation and application of new approaches to accelerate translational research of breakthrough technologies in the life sciences. The awards, which range from \$200,000 to \$800,000, will be used to accelerate translational research in the Commonwealth of Virginia through collaborations between industry and Virginia research universities. The deadline for consideration is September 8, 2016. Applications/LOIs and grant criteria can be downloaded from the VBHRC website ([www.vbhrc.com](http://www.vbhrc.com)).

“VBHRC is proud to announce round six of funding to help address unmet needs for driving new and innovative solutions to current public health issues,” said Mike Grisham, CEO, VBHRC/“the catalyst.” “We serve as an accelerator for the biosciences in Virginia and have been successful in helping facilitate initiatives for anti-inflammatory medicine for bowel disease, brain cancer treatments, diagnostics for Lyme disease and tissue repair mechanisms, to name a few. We look forward to reviewing the submissions from leading organizations and universities across Virginia for this next round of funding.”

Round six of funding follows the success of the round five winners who were awarded a total of \$687,000. Round five winners were VoltMed, in collaboration with Virginia Tech and the University of Virginia, for a project on tumor ablation for brain cancer; and Cavion, in collaboration with George Mason University and the University of Virginia, on a project identifying novel biomarkers for glioblastoma.

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.

**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. The goal of “the catalyst” is to create an environment that builds relationships making Virginia a leader in collaborations, innovation, startups and job creation.

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 on criteria and to download a copy of the LOI template, visit [www.vbhrc.com](http://www.vbhrc.com).

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