



Wednesday, February 20, 2008

Yale & CURE BIOHAVEN entrepreneurship series

Wednesday, March 19, 2008
Optherion, Inc.



Followed by networking, refreshments & wine bar

Optherion, Inc. is an early-stage biotechnology company that is developing diagnostic and disease-modifying products for the management and treatment of dry and wet Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and other chronic diseases involving the alternative complement system. Dry AMD is the leading cause of blindness in people over 60 in the developed world. There are 15-20 million people with AMD in the U.S. and more than 50 million worldwide.

Optherion's intellectual properties are based on recent scientific discoveries linking certain genes to AMD. Scientific discoveries published in 2005 link Complement Factor H (CFH) and Complement Factor B (CFB) – both regulators of the alternative complement pathway – to AMD. Genetic variations on Chromosome 10 have also been implicated in AMD, and are another focus of the company's product development. (Optherion announced last October that it has licensed from the University of Pittsburgh the worldwide rights to develop diagnostic products for AMD associated with specific variations in genes on Chromosome 10).

Optherion also announced last October that it had raised \$37 million in start up financing. Among the sources of capital for the financing are: Quaker BioVentures, Philadelphia; Domain Associates, Princeton, NJ and San Diego; Johnson & Johnson Development Corporation, New Brunswick, NJ; Purdue Pharmaceutical Products L.P., Stamford, CT; Pappas Ventures, Research Triangle Park, NC; Biogen Idec New Ventures, Cambridge, MA, and GE Healthcare Financial Services, Chicago, IL.

The company's intellectual property estate is based on discoveries at the University of Iowa by Dr. Gregory Hageman and at Yale University and Rockefeller University by Dr. Josephine Hoh as well as work by investigators at other universities. Optherion is located in New Haven, CT and on the biotechnology campus of the University of Iowa in Coralville, IA.

Speakers

Colin Foster, B.Sc., M.B.A.
Amanda Hayward, Ph.D.

President & Chief Executive Officer, Optherion, Inc.
Senior Vice President, Scheer & Company, Inc.

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

3:30 P.M. Registration
4:00 P.M. Seminar
5:00 P.M. Networking, Refreshments & Wine Bar

Location

The Anlyan Center auditorium, Yale Medical School.

Directions & Parking:

<http://info.med.yale.edu/maps/cab.html>

RSVP

Registration is free, but please RSVP in advance. E-mail to biohaven@yale.edu or call the Yale OCR main number: 203-785-6209.

Mark Your Calendar

The next seminar in the series, on **April 16, 2008**, features a special guest panel discussing "The Next Big Idea: Creating a New Venture." [Download a brochure of the complete 2007-2008 series here.](#)

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