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# Pittsburgh life sciences companies land IRS grants

**Pittsburgh Business Times - by Malia Spencer**

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Several Pittsburgh-area life sciences companies were awarded grants from the [Internal Revenue Service](#) and the Department of Health and Human Services under a program launched earlier this summer as part of the health care reform legislation.

Under the Affordable Care Act, companies with less than 250 employees could apply for a tax credit to cover up to 50 percent of a qualified investment made in 2009 or 2010 of up to \$5 million per company with a \$1 billion cap on the program. Awards went to work that could produce new, cost-saving therapies, support jobs and increase American competitiveness. Companies could opt either for a grant, if the firm is not yet profitable, or for a tax credit.

In the Pittsburgh region, the following companies received awards through the Qualifying Therapeutic Discovery Project:

- Alung Technologies Inc., \$244,479 grant for work done in 2009 on treating acute respiratory failure
- [Carmell Therapeutics Corp.](#), \$95,028 grant for work in 2009 on bone putty as well as a 2010 tax credit of \$149,450; and a grant of \$16,374 for work on tendon repair scaffold as well as a \$142,726 tax credit for 2010.
- [Cohera Medical Inc.](#), \$244,479 grant for work on preventative therapy for post surgical seroma in 2009
- Diamyd Inc., \$244,479 grant for work on NP2 chronic pain therapy in 2009
- Falcon Genomics Inc., \$76,417 grant for work in 2009 and \$168,061 for work in 2010 on its Cancer BioChip system
- InsituVue Inc., \$244,479 grant for work in 2010 on its sonic flashlight
- [Knopp Neurosciences Inc.](#), \$244,479 grant for work on its drug to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in 2009
- [Lipella Pharmaceuticals Inc.](#), \$103,000 grant for work in 2009 and \$141,479 for work in 2010 on intravesical liposomal therapy
- Neograft Technologies Inc., \$244,479 grant for work in 2009 on angioshield vascular reinforcement for saphenous veins
- [Neuro Kinetics Inc.](#), \$26,950 grant for work on its sports concussion project in 2009 as well as a \$217,529 grant for work in 2010
- Neurointerventional Therapeutics, \$182,020 grant for work in 2009 and \$62,459 for work in 2010 on its ischemic stroke intervention system
- Pinmed Inc., \$59,875 for work in 2009 and \$77,500 for work in 2010 on a low-cost personalized cardiorespiratory profiling and monitoring system
- [Precision Therapeutics Inc.](#), \$244,479 grant for work on its ChemoFX drug response marker in 2009
- [Red Path Integrated Pathology Inc.](#), \$183,075 grant in 2009 and a \$61,403 for 2010 for work on metastatic vs. primary cancer project; and a grant for \$244,479 for work in 2009 on its PathFinderTG pancreatic cyst assay project
- SpectraGenetics LLC, \$71,581 grant for work in 2009 and \$107,908 grant for work in 2010 for work on its Epitope-tagged transcription factor for epigenetic signatures in human cancer
- [Stemnion Inc.](#), \$244,479 for work in 2009 for commercialization of its proprietary cell technology platform for regenerative medicine
- [Thar Pharmaceuticals Inc.](#), \$211,486 grant for work in 2009 and \$32,992 grant in 2010 for work on Thar Pharmaceuticals IV to Oral Zoledronic Acid
- [Thermal Therapeutic Systems Inc.](#), \$244,479 grant for work in 2009 on its perfusion system to heat, circulate and monitor chemotherapeutic solutions
- Vytrace Corp., \$122,501 grant for work done in 2009 and \$95,511 for work in 2010 on a continuous glucose monitor for the acute care setting

In total, Pennsylvania received \$48.1 million in awards with grants going to 158 companies, according to the trade association Pennsylvania Bio. Four companies received tax credits totaling \$1.2 million.

In a written statement, Pennsylvania Bio's President **Christopher Molineaux** noted that the program will allow companies to recoup some biomedical research costs.

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“The impact of this program on Pennsylvania’s bioscience industry cannot be understated,” he said. “The funding it provides will have positive effects on job sustainability, global competitiveness, and on advancing life-saving therapies and cures for patients.”

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[Malia Spencer](#) covers technology and manufacturing at the [Pittsburgh Business Times](#). Contact her at [mspencer@bizjournals.com](mailto:m Spencer@bizjournals.com) or (412) 208-3829. You can also follow her on [Twitter](#).