

South Carolina-based IMCS Awarded Major NIH Research Grant

Enzyme and protein biotech leader creates, manufactures, distributes next gen products

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Integrated Micro-Chromatography Systems, Inc. ([IMCS](#)), known for their expertise in developing recombinant

proteins and enzymes, has been awarded a \$900,000 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Fast-Track grant from the National Institutes of Health (Developing Chemoenzymatic Strategies, Enzymes, and Kits for Accessible and Affordable [Gangliosides](#)).



Under this grant, IMCS expands enzymes, reagents, and methods for animal component-free manufacturing of various gangliosides. This award funds research into the production of affordable gangliosides and kits that will enable researchers to establish the potential of ganglioside-based diagnostics and therapeutic interventions. The grant will be headed by L. Andrew Lee, Ph.D., co-founder and Chief Scientific Officer of IMCS in conjunction with Xi Chen, Ph.D., Professor at the Department of Chemistry, University of California, Davis.

Gangliosides are biomolecules that contain sugars and a particular type of lipids, or ceramides. Analogous to biological antennae in cells, gangliosides are involved in critical roles across multiple biological processes, making them ideal for therapeutic applications. With this research grant, IMCS will provide the broader scientific community access to affordable reagents and tools to synthesize and modify various gangliosides, thereby enabling researchers to understand how these biomolecules affect neurological functions.

Ronald Schnaar, Ph.D., Professor of Pharmacology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine likened the grant's approach to building Legos. Schnaar, who is not involved in the grant, said that the technology presented features a very flexible system that would allow scientists to use molecular building blocks called glycans, to create a library of various gangliosides that could be used for a wide variety of research applications. "If you give us the pieces to build the Lego [structure], we can generate the tools to study anything from cell activity to testing potential therapeutics. You can use this to build anything. You can build a mimetic

library.”

In addition to its portfolio of enzymes, IMCS provides technologies to pharmaceutical companies, academic medical centers, and contract research organizations to develop next-generation antibody and gene therapy technologies, such as those used to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

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About IMCS

Integrated Micro-Chromatography Systems, Inc (IMCS) is a privately held biotechnology company that strives to address the growing needs of clinical and research laboratories through innovative technologies and custom solutions designed to increase testing efficiency. IMCS creates, manufactures, and distributes next-generation biotechnology products to clinical and forensic toxicology, academic research facilities, US Federal Government agencies, and health science companies in North America, Europe, and the Asia Pacific Region.

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