



EKOS[®] Develops new treatment for ischemic stroke using ultrasound contrast agents with \$250 K

EKOS Corporation announced today that it has received \$250,000.00 from the National Institute for Neurological Disorder and Stroke (NINDS), a division of National Institutes of Health (NIH), to develop an ischemic stroke therapy that provides faster restoration of blood flow to the brain tissue.

EKOS preclinical studies have demonstrated that addition of ultrasound contrast agents (UCA) to ultrasound accelerated enzymatic thrombolysis can significantly augment clot lysis rate. Under the NINDS grant award, EKOS will develop a highly effective method to incorporate UCA in their current technology for thrombus treatment of patients suffering from ischemic stroke.

“We believe that intra-arterial delivery of a combination of t-PA and UCA at the site of thrombo-occlusion in presence of ultrasound can shorten time to reperfusion of ischemic tissue” said Azita Soltani, Ph.D., Pre-clinical research manager, EKOS, and principal investigator of this grant. “This approach holds the potential to improve clinical outcomes in stroke therapy.”

Under the terms of this grant, in vitro studies will be performed at EKOS Bothell located facility by Azita Soltani, Ph.D. In addition, EKOS will collaborate under a subcontract with Dotter Interventional Institute, Oregon Health and Science Institute with Dr. Dusan Pavcnik to confirm feasibility of the new therapeutic protocol in vivo. Professors Ronald Roy, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, Boston University and Wayne Clark, Oregon stroke Center, Oregon Health and Science Institute, will provide guidelines as to acoustic and stroke therapy, respectively, throughout the duration of this project.

“We are grateful to the NIH SBIR program for their continued support of these exciting and pioneering studies in intra-arterial stroke therapy”, said Douglas Hansmann, Ph.D., COO of EKOS Corporation.