

AFFINEX LLC Success Story

AFFINEX LLC approached the Kansas City SBTDC seeking advice. The company's recent research could target Maple Syrup Urine Disease (MSUD), a rare hereditary amino acid disorder affecting roughly 1 in every 220,000 people. Missouri's Mennonite population experiences much higher prevalence (perhaps 1 in 80). With MSUD, the body does not properly break down three amino acids that build to toxic levels without proper diet backed by periodic testing. Currently, diagnosis and monitoring generally rely upon Ion Exchange Chromatography or Mass Spectrometry. Both can be very expensive and require regulated laboratories and operators. How could AFFINEX fund development of a proof-of-concept monitor for MSUD as a first step towards commercializing a much more affordable and available medical device?

While AFFINEX LLC cannot match the exacting accuracy of an expensive Tandem Mass Spectrometer system, the proposed device should deliver adequate accuracy with much wider availability. The AFFINEX objective: an affordable, compact, easy-to-use device suitable for POC (Point-of-Care) applications.

The basic platform could then be adapted to wider applications such as monitoring peptides in conjunction with cardiovascular treatment. Approximately 80 million Americans now suffer some form of cardiovascular disorder.

With the help of Larry Lee the Technology Development and Commercialization Specialist, they put together a successful Phase 0 grant from the Missouri Technology Incentive Program (MoTIP) and were awarded a \$5,000 grant to help them in their next step: the Phase I SBIR federal grant. AFFINEX LLC G.M., Thomas Stroud, has prepared the SBIR grant and submitted it for the December 5th deadline.