Alevca Ocular secures licenses from CWRU for novel ophthalmological drugs

By Lydia Coutré

The human eye is an organ which reacts to light and pressure. As a sense organ, the mammalian eye allows vision. Human eyes help provide a three dimensional, moving image, normally coloured in daylight.

Alevca Ocular LLC has gained licenses from Case Western Reserve University’s Technology Transfer Office to use university-funded research exclusively to develop and commercialize ophthalmological drugs focused on treating eye infection and irritation, according to a news release.

The early-stage company based in San Clemente, Calif., has licensed four drug technologies from Case Western Reserve.
"Our initial push will be on drugs targeting inflammation from cataract, LASIK and other eye surgeries, as well as from microbial causes," Alevca CEO Chris Magill said in a prepared statement.

Alevca, which is seeking Series A funding, has assembled a team of business and scientific experts and is preparing for financial and regulatory steps to bring the technology to clinical trials as soon as possible.

Eric Pearlman, former professor and director of research in Case Western Reserve's Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences from 1994-2014, developed and continues to direct the technologies. He's now a professor and director of the Institute for Immunology at the University of California, Irvine, according to the release.

"I am gratified that his technology has the opportunity to benefit patients, and I am excited that Alevca, along with Dr. Pearlman himself, is primed to take this technology into the clinic," Michael Haag, CWRU's Technology Transfer Office's executive director of technology management, said in a prepared statement. He's worked with Pearlman for nearly a decade.

The office has guided Pearlman through development and legal protections to advance the technologies, according to the release.

"The Case Western Reserve licenses are essential components of Alevca's development plan, and we appreciate the support the university's Tech Transfer Office has provided and continues to provide as we grow our organization," Magill said. "We aim to partner with big pharma to help accelerate programs and bring the drugs to market."

Use of editorial content without permission is strictly prohibited. All rights Reserved 2018
www.crainscleveland.com