

## PLATELET BIOGENESIS WINS \$30K SIMCERE/BIOSCIKIN BUSINESS COMPETITION AND A VISIT TO SHANGHAI, CHINA TO PITCH PLATELET BIOREACTOR

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (April 7, 2016) – Platelet BioGenesis, a biotech startup developing a method for producing life-saving platelets without the need for human blood-bank donations, won first place in a business plan competition co-hosted by BioSciKin, Simcere, Healthcare Executive Magazine, Firestone Investing, and MassBio. Platelets are the ‘Band-Aids’ of the bloodstream and platelet transfusions are critical to stop bleeding during surgery, transplants, and chemotherapy. Platelet BioGenesis beat out 130 startups in the US for a cash prize of \$30K and a trip to Shanghai, China to pitch in front of a panel of distinguished judges and investors. The BioSciKin competition for life sciences start-ups was founded in 2015. Preliminaries are held in 8 cities in China and the US, including San Francisco and Boston.

“We are overjoyed by the attention our work has attracted, and the momentum we have built on a foundation of some exceptionally strong science,” said Jonathan N. Thon, Ph.D., CEO/CSO and co-founder of Platelet BioGenesis. “Every major surgery and chemotherapy requires platelet transfusions, which are life-saving and critical for wound healing. The problem is unmet demand: platelet inventory shelf-life is only 1.5 days after bacterial screening and transport.” Co-founder Sven Karlsson added, “By producing platelets directly from stem cells we intend to circumvent the need for volunteer donors, and produce platelets that are cheaper, safer and available on-demand. This is a \$20B market opportunity that will continue to grow as we make life-saving platelets available to the developing world, where billions of people lack access to platelet transfusions.”

Low platelet count is a significant consequence of cancer treatment, transplant, and surgery, for which platelets are a critical first-line therapy to prevent death from uncontrolled bleeding. Platelet units comprising  $3 \times 10^{11}$  platelets per 200-400 mL are at present derived exclusively from human volunteer donors, and must be stored at or above 22°C (room temperature) to avoid irreversible temperature-related activation/aggregation. Risk of bacterial growth during room-temperature storage limits shelf life to five days, two of which are consumed by bacterial screening, and one by transport. As a result, blood centers typically do not have more than a two-day platelet inventory available for transfusion, which is rapidly depleted in emergencies. By transitioning to a donor-independent system, patients will have access to safer platelets and will no longer be dependent on volunteer donors.

### **About Platelet BioGenesis (<http://www.plateletbiogenesis.com>; twitter @plateletbiogen)**

Platelet BioGenesis is a pre-clinical stage biotech company that was spun out of Harvard in 2014 to produce donor-independent human platelets from pluripotent stem cells. Platelet BioGenesis has developed and patented a microfluidic bioreactor, and shown that functional platelets can be generated from human stem cell cultures at scale. The company was selected to participate in MassCONNECT (run by MassBio), was a 2014 MassChallenge Finalist, and has received support from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center and the NIH.

### **About Simcere**

Simcere is an emerging leader in developing, manufacturing and marketing of innovative medicines and branded generics in China. Simcere was the first Chinese chemical and biological drug company to list on the NYSE in 2007. In 2013, the company went private for strategic considerations. In 2015, Simcere’s translational medicine and innovative drug R&D platform was recognized as a State Key Laboratory by the National Ministry of Science and Technology. The company has been actively pursuing cross-border partnerships to bring global innovation to China. In Boston and New Jersey, Simcere now has two offices in the US for accelerating international business development.

### **About BioSciKin**

BioSciKin (BSK) is an open platform in China for life science entrepreneurs and innovators. BSK focuses on three major healthcare areas: novel therapeutics, medical devices and mobile healthcare services, BSK is looking for partnership from all over the world for co-development of innovative approaches in precision medicine. In Nanjing, Shanghai and Tianjin, BSK has established 3 R&D-oriented incubation parks with advanced R&D facilities to

provide entrepreneurs with customized service and support packages. For more information, please go to BSK's official website: [www.bioscikin.com](http://www.bioscikin.com)

**About MassBio**

MassBio is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1985 that represents and provides services and support for the world's leading life sciences supercluster. MassBio is committed to advancing Massachusetts' leadership in the life sciences to grow the industry, add value to the healthcare system and improve patient lives. Representing more than 700 biotechnology companies, academic institutions, disease foundations and other organizations involved in life sciences and healthcare, MassBio leverages its unparalleled network of innovative companies and industry thought leaders to advance policy and promote education, while providing member programs, events, industry information, and services.

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