

Dr. Jonathan Thon, Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School joins Platelet BioGenesis as CEO/CSO

Boston, Mass, August 1, 2017 - [Platelet BioGenesis](#), a biotech startup developing a process to produce life-saving human platelets from stem cells for therapeutic applications, is pleased to announce that Dr. Jonathan Thon is joining the team full-time as its incoming Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Chief Scientific Officer (CSO). Dr. Thon, a Co-Founder of Platelet BioGenesis and an Associate Biochemist and Assistant Professor in the Hematology Division at Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Department of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, had been focused on developing bio-mimetic microfluidic platforms to generate functional platelets and new targeted therapies for thrombocytopenia. Platelet BioGenesis' core technology was developed in his lab.

"It is with mixed emotions that I am stepping aside from my academic research responsibilities so that I can join Platelet BioGenesis full time as its incoming CEO and Chief Scientific Officer. I became a scientist to make a difference, and in so doing I have done my best to follow my work as much as direct it. The company that I founded increasingly requires more of my attention and freedom to bring this important advancement to the public. Making platelets is an ambitious undertaking! The supportive community around us has helped to open a lot of doors and now it is our responsibility to walk through them to translate the work of our team and so many others to the clinic" said Dr. Thon.

By combining novel concepts in bone marrow and pulmonary physiology with cutting-edge technical advances in tissue engineering, Dr. Thon's lab has focused on developing safer and scalable alternatives to donor-dependent human platelet transfusions for hematological diseases and trauma. Dr. Thon began this research as a Ph.D. candidate in the lab of Dr. Dana Devine at the University of British Columbia, Canada, where he worked closely with Canadian Blood Services for the improvement of the processing and storage of blood platelets and the identification of mechanisms regulating their storage-related deterioration. His postdoctoral research was continued in Dr. Joseph Italiano's lab at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston, where he studied the cytoskeletal mechanics and signaling pathways regulating platelet formation, leading to the identification of intermediate stages and triggers of platelet production, and the development of a human platelet bioreactor.

Sven Karlsson, Co-Founder and Chief Business Officer, stated, "Leaving academia is never an easy decision, particularly when you have a prominent faculty position at a leading research institute. Jonathan's decision to join Platelet BioGenesis full time further affirms his confidence in our ability to bring donor-independent platelets to the clinic. This is simply the next step in the long journey from basic research to improving the lives of millions of patients that Jonathan started over a decade ago".

Dr. Nancy Berliner, Chief of the Division of Hematology at Brigham and Women's Hospital, added, "We congratulate Jonathan on his well-deserved appointment and are sure he will do an outstanding job. We are sorry to see him go but wish him all the best in his new endeavors. Jonathan will retain an appointment as a collaborator at BWH and a lecturer at Harvard Medical School."

About Platelet BioGenesis (www.plateletbiogenesis.com; twitter [@plateletbiogen](#))

Platelet BioGenesis is a pre-clinical stage biotech company that was spun out the academic labs of Drs. Italiano and Thon at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard. In its quest 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 National Institutes of Health.

Contact:

Whitney Berry | (720) 509.9448 wberry@plateletbiogenesis.com