

A new company based in New Orleans is conducting cutting-edge research and development on pain treatment while developing a pipeline of new drugs. “St. Charles Pharmaceuticals is on its way to developing other new medications for the treatment of neurological disorders, including stroke, Alzheimer’s disease, and blinding eye conditions, such as retinal degeneration,” says President Kenneth Narducy.

St. Charles Pharmaceuticals has patents for a number of new compounds and is exploring partnering opportunities with well-established pharmaceutical companies. The market potential of these products is so extensive that they could contribute to a whole new knowledge-based economy in New Orleans and Louisiana.

Spearheading the company and its products is founder, chairman and CEO Dr. Nicolas G. Bazan, the director of the LSU Health Sciences Center’s Neuroscience Center for Excellence. The first drug Bazan hopes to market is a pain reliever he has invented with Julio Alvarez-Builla and Carlos Sunkel of the Universidad de Alcalá, Spain. The new drug, called SCP-1, is currently in Phase I clinical trials. The main feature of SCP-1 is that it has all the pain relieving power of acetaminophen, but without its toxicity or side effects. SCP-1 represents the lead compound in St. Charles Pharmaceuticals’ platform technology of acetaminophen analogs and derivatives.

“Because many analgesics on the market have critical side effects, there is a significant market and opportunity for developing a low-toxicity pain reliever for chronic conditions,” says Bazan.

“The combination of the discoveries of Dr. Bazan with the start-up biotech/pharmaceutical company model that has been established with the LSU Health Sciences Center and the University of New Orleans to nurture the company has proven to be very effective,” says CFO Barry LeBlanc.

SCP-1 is just the first new product being developed by St. Charles Pharmaceuticals and its partners. But in the midst of the fervor surrounding its own technology, the company is most excited about contributing to the growing culture of innovation in New Orleans and Louisiana. Bazan and his colleagues envision a substantial pharmaceutical/biotech industry in the city that takes advantage of the many talented minds coming out of the surrounding universities.

“I think there is a tremendous amount of brain power in this very small area,” says Bryan Wallace, manager of corporate development for St. Charles Pharmaceuticals. “New Orleans houses a number of universities and medical schools, and we feel that it is a perfect location for biotech research and development.” The group at St. Charles Pharmaceuticals is passionately dedicated to New Orleans and Louisiana and feels that the emergence of other biotech companies will only enhance their own company’s future.

“St. Charles Pharmaceuticals is already beginning to create new, high-paying jobs for the state,” says Bazan. “This creates a magnet for companies in the biosciences and associated support industries.”

The leaders of St. Charles Pharmaceuticals envision a future as a fully-integrated pharmaceutical company surrounded by other biotech companies and knowledge industries, leading to economic growth throughout Louisiana.

“The fuel and energy is here,” says Wallace, “we just need to light the match.”

Rx FOR INNOVATION



Dr. Nicolas G. Bazan leads the creative force behind St. Charles Pharmaceuticals.

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