

#### **Contact Information**

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#### Industry

Combination Product Pain Control

## Development stage

Academic Endeavor in Stealth Mode

# Funding Opportunity \$3,000,000 to complete

pre-clinical work within one year

#### Other Support Needed

- CEO experienced with biotechnology startups, enthusiastic about female founders, and excited about both the science and the business opportunity
- Introductions to implant makers or pharmaceutical companies interested in innovation, looking to distinguish within their marker, dedicated to patient outcomes, and interested in partnering with clinicians and patients early on.

#### **Current Funding**

- Federal GrantsMIRA R35
- Foundational Grants
  - o Connections Grant
- Institutional Funds
  - o UConn
  - Connecticut Children's

## Implantable biodegradable pain relief film to eliminate pain after surgery

#### **UNMET NEED**

- Surgery hurts
  - o 40 million adults and 4 million children have surgery each year.
  - 80% have uncontrolled pain, putting them at risk of new chronic pain (1 in 4 patients after surgery) or opioid addiction and overdose (1 in 600 and 1 in 3,500 opioid-naïve patients).
- Our current solutions are inadequate
  - o Local anesthetic injections are too short-lasting.
  - Continuous infusions and nerve blocks are too complicated.
  - Over the counter pills are too mild for most surgical pain.
  - Opioid pain medications treat severe pain, but are too risky in terms of addiction.

#### **SOLUTION**

- Our films release strong non-addictive local anesthetic for 7 days, are flexible, can be cut to size, and biodegrade when no longer needed.
- Patented brush technology allows for precise and targeted drug delivery, making our film safe.
- FDA-approved local anesthetic Bupivacaine is bound to our films during manufacturing, then released at the surgical site to block pain nerves and eliminate the sensation of pain without risk of addiction.
- Our IP can be used for two products, both **simple** for the customer:
  - 1. **Stand-alone film** placed in the surgical site by the surgeon.
  - 2. **Combined with an implant** such as a breast implant or hernia mesh.

#### POTENTIAL RETURN

- Stand-alone film: ESM of \$130M for first indication of inguinal hernia. The global market for pain control after surgery is growing 5% annually.
- **Combined with an implant**: ESM of **\$256M** for partnership with two implant makers to provide film incorporated into their product, allowing for a surgical implant with embedded pain control. The global implant market is growing 7% annually.

## COMPETITION

- Recently FDA-approved products (Exparel from Innocoll) release for no more than 48 hours.
- Startups in this space have no clinician on their executive management team (PainReform).
- Large companies are not rapidly innovating (Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson).
- Our film can bind a new drug or combinations of drugs if a disruptive medication arrives.

## **EXECUTION PLAN**

With appropriate funding, we will complete pre-clinical work on the stand-alone film by the end of calendar year 2024. Phase 2 trials will begin in 2026. Phase 3 trials will begin in 2027. We anticipate **FDA approval** for the stand-alone film in 2030.

### **FINANCIALS**

- Angel Round (2024): \$3M for Preclinical work
- Seed Round (2025): \$10M for Phase 2 Trial
- Series A (2027): \$15M to start Phase 3 Trial
- Series B (2028): \$20M to complete Phase 3 Trial and obtain FDA approval
- Exit strategy (2030): Acquisition or IPO after FDA approval

## THE TEAM

We have a cross-functional team with the experience to complete pre-clinical work and oversee clinical trials. Our collaboration allows us to perform **clinically-based design**: our products are developed with the clinical need and realities of modern health care built into the design from day one.

- Courtney Rowe, MD, Surgeon
  - Director of Reconstructive Urology at Connecticut Children's, with translational research experience in large animal models and early clinical trials.
- Kelly Burke, PHD, Polymer Scientist
  - Director of the Polymer Program at UConn, with expertise in synthesis and structure-property relationships of multifunctional polymeric materials.
- Chris Foster, MA, Cell Biologist
  - Researcher at UConn Health, with extensive experience in molecular and cell biology