



Superior Dyes for **Superior Data**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NIRvana Sciences Awarded \$400k Phase I SBIR Grant from NCI**

**RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC, OCTOBER 1, 2021** – NIRvana Sciences, Inc., the leading developer of synthetic bacteriochlorins and chlorins, today announced that it has been awarded a Phase I SBIR grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

This Phase I grant, “Novel Multispectral Optoacoustic Tomography Contrast Agents for Evaluation of Early Response to Radiation Therapy,” will be used to conduct proof of concept of its dyes for photoacoustic imaging in mouse studies. Photoacoustic imaging is an emerging in vivo imaging technique that uses light to excite the contrast agent and doppler ultrasound for detection. This non-invasive imaging technique is being used to study how blood vessels grow in tumors, blood oxygenation mapping, functional brain mapping, skin melanoma detection and more.

“NIRvana Sciences is very pleased that NCI sees the potential in our dyes as contrast agents for advancing the field of photoacoustic imaging, and that they also see the greater positive impact to the broader field of cancer research. Our ability to synthetically modify and tune the unique features of our dyes to create a strong and narrow ultrasound signal should have substantial value to the field of photoacoustic imaging” says CEO Russell Thomas.

### **About NIRvana Sciences**

NIRvana Sciences is a spin-out from North Carolina State University with a mission to commercialize red and near-infrared fluorescent dyes and associated probes with narrow spectral properties for use in life science applications. In addition to support from NIH, NIRvana has also received support from angel investors in North and South Carolina, North Carolina Biotechnology Center (NCBC), NC IDEA and Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network. NIRvana facility is located at Alexandria Innovation Center in Research Triangle Park, NC USA.

For additional information, please visit [www.nirvanasciences.com](http://www.nirvanasciences.com)

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