Anstyl Already Considered Standout Among Peers

Biotech Firm to Help Raise Startup Profile in DC

Small biotechnology company Invyte LLC will be among 35 startups to participate in the first University Startups Demo Day on Sept. 20 in Washington, D.C.

The event is hosted by Washington, D.C.-based National Council of Entrepreneurial Tech Transfer, an association of university startups officers.

"Anstyl is both proud and flattered to have been chosen as one of the 35 best..." Chief Operating Officer David Putnam said via email.

The event is an opportunity for universities, "especially those not exposed to venture capital investors..." he said.

Anstyl is among the many startup companies working with Applied Innovation, UCI's innovation institute, to spin off technologies with market potential. The technology was discovered at UCI, and Applied Innovation handled the licensing.

Anstyl specializes in development of drugs for serious neurological and psychiatric disorders, such as Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia and autism.

"It's advancing the research of Kelvin Gee, a UCI professor of pharmacology. For more than 30 years, he's worked to understand how signaling through certain brain chemicals can affect a variety of medical disorders.

He and his group have designed and synthesized new drugs that can restore normal brain signaling that affects a variety of central nervous system disorders, with fewer side effects and greater efficacy than traditional medicines, according to the company. The discoveries have led to more than a dozen patented technologies. Gee serves as a scientific advisor to Anstyl.

More than 200 companies were screened for the demo day. Representatives from final companies will give six-minute pitches to members of Congress, investors and startup officers - executives at corporations who act as liaisons with startups - at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Anstyl was cofounded by Alex Whitcup in 2016. The company plans to begin developing the drug for the studies, which Hasan said it plans to start by year-end. They will be working with other drug supplies to provide a comprehensive process for drug development and to start the first human clinical studies.

"It's a great opportunity and great location to be able to start something," Whitcup said. "Ireland has a small, highly-globalized economy, with a large exporting sector and a significant number of multinational corporations. It's a great place to do business."

Anstyl now has more than 10 universities and companies around the world as clients, the majority in Europe, one in Los Angeles and one in Silicon Valley, Guillaud said.

"They've received an investment in the six figures from an angel investor that chose to remain anonymous.

"We kind of see at the student leadership level, as motivated and inspired student leaders are to make change, they can, they may not necessarily have the tools or technology to leverage that big impact," he said. "So having a collaborating... tool management system such as this really will help empower all those motivated and inspired student leaders to make change and leave a lasting legacy when they leave their term at the university."