Ceres receives $750K award from US Department of Defense to adapt Nanotrap® to Zika and emerging febrile illness pathogens from non-invasive sample types

MANASSAS, Va. — February 22, 2017 — Ceres Nanosciences, Inc. (Ceres) today announced the commencement of a development program, funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of the US Department of Defense, to use Ceres' Nanotrap® particle technology to commercialize sample processing tools for improved detection of Zika and other emerging pathogens from non-invasively collected urine and saliva specimens. During the 12-month performance of this program, Ceres will work in collaboration with George Mason University (GMU) to adapt the Nanotrap® platform for virus pathogen capture and concentration from urine and saliva samples, resulting in improved detection by multiple analytical methods suitable for point-of-care (POC) testing and high-throughput clinical laboratory testing. Additionally, Ceres will utilize the adapted Nanotrap® technology to demonstrate the utility to extend the current detection window of pathogens to both earlier and later time points.

Ceres, a biotechnology company located in northern Virginia, has developed and commercialized a novel nanoparticle technology, the "Nanotrap® Particle", which provides powerful biofluid sample processing capabilities for improved diagnostic and detection applications as well as for enhanced sample processing and stability.

The Nanotrap® particle technology was invented at George Mason University under funding from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for biomarker discovery applications, and currently is being developed into commercial products by Ceres with support from NIH, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"The Nanotrap® platform's ability to rapidly concentrate and detect viruses at extremely low levels, from non-invasively collected samples, such as urine, will allow for easier and more accurate diagnosis of Zika and other emerging pathogens," said Ben Lepene, Chief Technology Officer and Director of R&D for Ceres. "The universal nature of the Nanotrap® technology and our ability to pair it with existing tests will provide many opportunities for improved detection and pathogen identification in all settings, ranging from point-of-care to high-volume clinical laboratories."

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About Ceres Nanosciences, Inc.
Ceres Nanosciences is a privately held company focused on the development of research and diagnostic products using its unique and proprietary Nanotrap® capture particle technology. Ceres' business goals are to develop a number of commercial applications of the Nanotrap® for high-demand diagnostics and other needs in the life sciences industry.

Press Contact:
Ross M. Dunlap
Ceres Nanosciences, Inc
1.800.615.0418 ext. 202
rdunlap@ceresnano.com