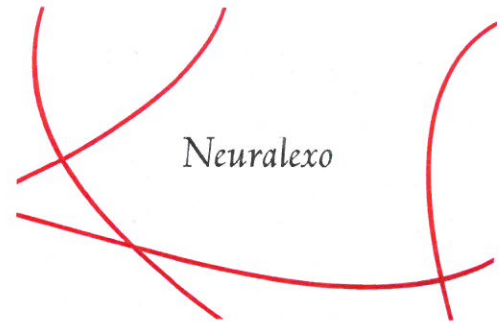


February 15, 2019

Representative John Lively, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301



RE: Support for the Oregon Innovation Council (Oregon InC)

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chair Bonham, Vice-Chair Fahey and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of the Oregon Innovation Council (Oregon InC) programs administered by the Innovation & Entrepreneurship (I&E) division of the Oregon Business Development Department. Oregon InC provides critical guidance into how best to invest limited dollars to support innovation in Oregon. In addition, Oregon InC provides critical funding for early-stage companies trying to commercialize technology and create the next generation of Oregon businesses. Funding for businesses at this stage is very difficult to find, and Oregon InC's programs help fill these gaps.

Neuralexo is a small biotech firm, located in Portland, Oregon established in 2013 as an LLC and transitioned to Neuralexo INC in 2016. Neuralexo's mission is the research and development of small molecule activators of the immune system for therapeutic intervention in cancer, stroke and infectious disease. Neuralexo has received \$1.4 million in National Institute of Health (NIH) funding and currently employees 1 full-time PhD level position and a part-time position, with plans to add another full-time position in 2019. The Oregon InC has provided critical funding opportunities in support of our ongoing federal government funded projects. These funds have allowed us to secure the necessary equipment to build on these efforts and further our translational capabilities in this field. In addition, we have leveraged Oregon InC funding to enhance our applications for further NIH support, bringing in more federal dollars to Oregon in development of marketable therapeutics. Funds and support from Oregon InC have been essential for our development as a biotech company in Oregon.

Oregon InC's programs help ensure that Oregon's entrepreneurs are not at a disadvantage compared to their peers in other states that have similar types of support programs. In addition, Oregon InC's funding leverages private investment and federal government grants, which magnifies its impact on Oregon's start-up community. We are solid supporters of Oregon InC and its programs and will continue to work with the Council and the I&E division in the coming biennium to help Oregon's entrepreneurs be as successful as possible. We strongly encourage the Legislature to continue to fund this critical effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Stevens".

Susan Stevens
Senior Scientist; Secretary
Neuralexo Inc.