

## IEDC News

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### Biotech Firm Reaches Partnership to Fund Lung Drug Development

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**INDIANAPOLIS** (Feb. 10, 2010) - ImmuneWorks, a biotechnology firm specializing in the development of treatments for various lung diseases, announced today that it has reached a joint development agreement with Lung Rx, a wholly owned subsidiary of United Therapeutics Corporation (NASDAQ: UTHR). Lung Rx will fund ImmuneWorks' research and development operations with the option of acquiring the firm.

ImmuneWorks, based at the Indiana University Emerging Technologies Center on the campus of IUPUI, was a 2007 recipient of \$2 million in grants from the state's 21st Century Research and Technology Fund. The company's focus has been on developing treatments for orphan lung diseases, classified by the Food and Drug Administration as a disease that affects less than 200,000 people nationwide.

"This significant funding event validates the 21 Fund's mission to provide early stage grants to companies who are developing technologies here," said Mitch Roob, Secretary of Commerce and chief executive officer of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. "This partnership will ensure that ImmuneWorks' innovations will grow in Indiana."

The company is currently in pre-clinical testing for the development of an orally administered treatment for idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a disease which causes scarring or thickening of the lungs and affects nearly 130,000 people in the United States according to the Coalition for Pulmonary Fibrosis. Symptoms include chest pain, coughing and shortness of breath and current treatments are limited to drugs aimed at slowing the progression of the disease or, in some cases, lung transplants.

"We are extremely pleased to enter into this strategic partnership with Lung Rx," said Wade A. Lange, president and chief executive officer of ImmuneWorks. "Investment from BioCrossroads and the 21st Century Fund were critical in advancing ImmuneWorks' technology to the stage where a partnership with a leading biotech firm could take place."

Founded in 2006 by Indiana University researchers Michael J. Klemsz, Ph.D., and David Wilkes, M.D., and Ronald Meeusen, Ph.D., managing partner of MidPoint Food & Ag Fund,

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