

## **BioStrategies LC wins National 2012 Tibbetts Award for being among Best US Small Technology firms funded by SBIR grant**

Company's IP Awarded First FDA Approval in Plant-Based Production of Therapeutic Proteins

April 24, 2012

On Tuesday, April 24, 2012 *BioStrategies LC* was recognized as a "Model of Excellence" among small US Technology R&D firms by winning a 2012 Tibbetts Award from the US Small Business Administration (SBA). At a ceremony held at the White House in Washington DC, Drs. David Radin and Carole Cramer, co-founders of the company, were each awarded trophies by Karen Mills, Director of SBA, signifying this national recognition. Also present for the awards was Roland Tibbetts (left in photo), who was instrumental in establishing the national SBIR program.



**2012 Tibbett Award presentation;** from left, Roland Tibbetts, David Radin, SBA Administrator Karen Mills, Carole Cramer, SBA's Sean Greene.

The Tibbetts Award highlights twenty years of successful SBIR research led by the entrepreneurial team of Drs. Radin and Cramer, who have pioneered R&D leading to the introduction of bioengineered plants for manufacturing human therapeutic proteins. The core innovation highlighted in the award was initiated during their first SBIR grant from NIH in 1993, which demonstrated that the normal gene for a human enzyme defective in Gauchers Disease, a rare genetic disorder, could be introduced into plants and expressed to produce a bioactive human enzyme. This technology, licensed to Protalix, was approved by FDA on May 1, 2012 and is expected to be marketed world-wide under partnership with Pfizer Pharmaceuticals. This breakthrough achievement represents the first commercialized plant-made human therapeutic protein to be marketed in the US and abroad.

Radin and Cramer are serial entrepreneurs having started two previous small biotech companies with the breakthrough research recognized in the Tibbetts Award being developed at their first company, *CropTech Corp.* The SBIR program has been instrumental in the development of these companies and in driving product and technology innovation in plant-made pharmaceutical, biodefense, and veterinary products. Throughout their career, they have won SBIR grants from the NIH, DOD, US Army, National Cancer Institute, and USDA, and a NIST Advanced Technology Program from the Dept. of Commerce. Dr. Radin serves as Managing Director of *BioStrategies*; Cramer, a professor at ASU, serves as *BioStrategies'* Scientific Director.

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