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Vincere Biosciences Receives Funding from The Michael J. Fox Foundation to Accelerate Parkin Activator Program

Cambridge, MA, USA - May 2019: [Vincere Biosciences, Inc.](#), a Delaware corporation headquartered in Cambridge, MA has received a [\\$1 million grant](#) from [The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research](#) (MJFF) to accelerate the development of small molecule activators of the enzyme Parkin. Genetic mutations in Parkin cause early onset Parkinson's disease, and Vincere's computational models of sporadic Parkinson's patient samples suggests this pathway is also degraded in non-genetic forms of the disease.

CEO Spring Behrouz, PhD, says, **“The potential to stop disease progression for millions of patients now and into the future is what drives us.”**

This 18-month project will lead selection and optimization through the first stages of in vivo validation. The project is led by Chief Scientific Officer Kalpana Merchant, PhD, an expert in Parkinson's disease biology who has led drug discovery programs in biotech and pharma settings for over 25 years. **“There is not a single drug that slows or stops the progression of Parkinson's disease. The MJFF grant will support the first critical steps towards addressing this unmet need.”**, says Dr. Merchant

Vincere board member and investor Jim Liang says, **“Receiving a grant from The Michael J. Fox Foundation is significant because of the affirmation it provides. They think we have something here that is valid and worth pursuing.”**

“Parkin is a growing target of interest in Parkinson's research, and The Michael J. Fox Foundation is proud to support development of therapies to address dysfunction and slow disease in mutation carriers and perhaps a broader patient population,” said Liliana Menalled, PhD, Senior Associate Director of Research Programs at MJFF.

About Vincere Biosciences Inc: Vincere Biosciences was founded in 2018 and develops therapeutics for neurodegenerative disease empowered by a unique suite of computational tools coupled with traditional biology and drug discovery expertise. Vincere is Latin for “To win” a constant reminder of our mission to win the fight against disease. <http://www.vincerebio.com>

About The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research: As the world's largest nonprofit funder of Parkinson's research, The Michael J. Fox Foundation is dedicated to accelerating a cure for Parkinson's disease and improved therapies for those living with the condition today. The Foundation pursues its goals through an aggressively funded, highly targeted research program coupled with active global engagement of scientists, Parkinson's patients, business leaders, clinical trial participants, donors and volunteers. In addition to funding more than \$800 million in research to date, the Foundation has fundamentally altered the trajectory of progress toward a cure. Operating at the hub of worldwide Parkinson's research, the Foundation forges groundbreaking collaborations with industry leaders, academic scientists and government research funders; increases the flow of participants into Parkinson's disease clinical trials with its online tool, Fox Trial Finder; promotes Parkinson's awareness through high-profile advocacy, events and outreach; and coordinates the grassroots involvement of thousands of Team Fox members around the world.