



<http://www.endocyte.com>

NEWS RELEASE

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Endocyte's research to reduce chemo's side effects receives state-federal dollars

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — More than \$3.5 million in federal and state grants will support research by [Endocyte Inc.](http://www.endocyte.com), a Purdue Research Park life sciences company, to make cancer-treating drugs more potent yet easier for patients' systems to tolerate.

The grants — \$1.63 million from the National Cancer Institute and \$1.95 million from the Indiana 21st Century Research and Technology Fund — will enable Endocyte (www.endocyte.com) to complete preclinical research on tumor-targeted chemotherapeutics.

"These grants from the NCI and Indiana's 21st Century Fund are an important part of our plan to develop new targeted therapies for treatment of cancer," said P. Ron Ellis, Endocyte's president and chief executive officer. "Both grants are critical to the success of novel agents that we plan to see in human clinical trials by late 2005."

Both grants will be dispersed over a three-year period.

"The research will involve using the vitamin folate to transform various anticancer drugs into 'smart drugs,' which bypass normal cells in favor of diseased ones," said Christopher P. Leamon, Ph.D., Endocyte's vice president of research. "Because cancer needs folate in order to grow and divide, Endocyte's folate-targeted *chemotherapy* approach tricks cancer cells into ingesting anticancer agents we've attached to folate molecules."

The company's other approach, which also targets cancer while avoiding the surrounding normal tissue, involves attaching various markers to folate in order to force the body's immune system to fight the disease. This folate-targeted *immunotherapy* treatment method already is being tested in phase 1 Food and Drug Administration-regulated human clinical trials

The National Cancer Institute is the U.S. government's primary center for cancer research and is affiliated with the National Institutes of Health. The National Cancer Institute conducts and supports cancer-related research, training and other programs.

The Indiana 21st Century Research and Technology Fund was created in 1999 by the state's General Assembly to stimulate the process of diversifying the state's economy by developing and commercializing advanced technologies in Indiana.

Endocyte Inc. is located in the [Purdue Research Park](http://www.purdueresearchpark.com) (www.purdueresearchpark.com), which is Indiana's first Certified Technology Park, and is home to the largest concentration of high-tech companies in the state.

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements are based on management's current expectations and involve significant risks and uncertainties that may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

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