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Grant will help develop more powerful disinfectants



Ryan S. Brandenburg

With the help of a 2013 QED grant, engineering faculty members Iyad Obeid (left), Joseph Picone (right) and graduate student Meysam Golmohammadi developed a software to read EEGs.

Biofilms are microorganisms, like bacteria, in which cells stick to each other on a surface. They are especially prevalent in hospital settings and can lead to chronic microbial infections such as MRSA.

Wuest said that his compounds are just as active against MRSA as they are against non-drug-resistant bacteria, which is especially important because commercial cleaners and disinfectants are losing their potency as bacteria become more resistant.

The grant is a part of the Science Center's QED Proof-of-Concept Program, which aims to bridge the funding gap between research grants and commercial seed investment by providing funds for promising

Temple Assistant Professor of Chemistry William Wuest has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the University City Science Center to develop the next generation of antibacterial cleansers and disinfectants.

Wuest and his collaborators have developed new antibiofilm compounds that have been found to be 100 times better in fighting drug-resistant bacteria than the active ingredients currently found in the most commonly used cleaning agents and disinfectants.

Temple's QED History

George Tuszynski, professor emeritus of neuroscience in Temple's School of Medicine, received Temple's [first QED grant in 2011](http://news.temple.edu/news/researcher-receives-grant-develop-alternative-leukemia-treatment) (<http://news.temple.edu/news/researcher-receives-grant-develop-alternative-leukemia-treatment>) to develop Angiocidin—a novel tumor-inhibiting protein he discovered—which has shown effectiveness as a therapeutic against acute myeloid leukemia. It is now [moving toward clinical trials](http://news.temple.edu/news/2013-10-22/grant-will-advance-temple-therapeutic-towards-clinical-trials) (<http://news.temple.edu/news/2013-10-22/grant-will-advance-temple-therapeutic-towards-clinical-trials>).

In 2013, [Temple received two QED grants](#)

technologies in the healthcare industry. Half of the grant's funding comes from the Science Center and the other half from the researcher's institution.

"This funding is key in incorporating our compounds into new cleaners and disinfectants that can be used in real-world settings like hospitals, healthcare centers and nursing homes," Wuest said. "We will use a portion of these funds to develop compounds to screen against resistant bacteria and evaluate their efficacy."

Wuest's project was one of four selected by the Science Center out of 68 submissions from nine universities in the Greater Philadelphia region. It is the fourth QED grant that Temple has received since the program began in 2009.

<http://news.temple.edu/news/2013-12-03/temple-researchers-receive-grants-develop-als-therapy-eeg-software>: Ben Blass, assistant professor of medicinal chemistry in the School of Pharmacy, earned one for the development of a therapy for treating ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis). Another went to electrical and computer engineering faculty members Joseph Picone and Iyad Obeid for the creation of a software program to read and diagnose electroencephalography, or EEGs.

According to Stephen G. Nappi, associate vice provost for technology commercialization and business development, the Blass and Picone/Obeid QED grants are nearing their completion and Temple will create startup companies to license and further develop those technologies for commercialization.

- [Preston Moretz \(/writer/preston-moretz\)](/writer/preston-moretz)

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