

Ception Closes Year's 2nd Largest Biopharm Round

By Brian Gormley
brian.gormley@dowjones.com

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Ception Therapeutics Inc., a drug developer targeting inflammation and other conditions, has raised the second-largest biopharmaceutical financing this year, adding \$14.7 million to its Series C round to bring the total to \$77.7 million.

Participants in the financing included existing investors Third Point LLC and Greenlight Capital, both hedge funds, according to the Malvern, Pa., company.

In January, Ception raised a \$63 million Series C led by Essex Woodlands Health Ventures. Essex Woodlands also backed EUSA Pharma Inc., which raised a \$175 million round in March, the largest biopharmaceutical round of 2007, according to VentureOne, a research unit of Dow Jones & Co., publisher of this newsletter.

Ception formed in 2004 and merged with Fulcrum Pharmaceuticals in December 2005, according to a spokesman. All told, \$98 million has been invested in the combined company.

Investor Growth Capital, MDS Capital, New Science Ventures and Aperture Venture Partners are also investors in Ception, which is developing biological and small-molecule drugs for an inflammatory, anti-infective and anti-thrombotic indication but hasn't disclosed details. Company officials declined to comment on the new financing.

Ception's most advanced product is entering late-stage clinical trials for inflammation, according to its Web site. This additional \$14.7 million "provides an extended financial runway for our lead biologic program, as well as our other development and discovery programs," Chief Executive Stephen Tullman said in a statement.

The company, which has a thermodynamics-based drug-discovery technology, has another anti-inflammatory drug in early clinical development, an oral anti-TNF drug in preclinical development, and products in the discovery stage for anti-infective and anti-thrombotic conditions, according to its Web site.

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