



**Cognition Therapeutics, Inc.**

(412) 481-2210 Main  
(412) 481-2216 Fax  
2403 Sidney St., Suite 261  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
[www.CogRx.com](http://www.CogRx.com)

**COGNITION THERAPEUTICS CELEBRATES INNOVATION WORKS 100<sup>TH</sup> NEW INVESTMENT IN START-UP TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES**

**Pittsburgh, PA – January 17, 2008** – Cognition Therapeutics Inc., a Pittsburgh-based drug discovery company developing small molecule disease-modifying treatments for Alzheimer’s, joined other start-up companies in congratulating Innovation Works for reaching its 100<sup>th</sup> investment. Cognition was one of the 17 companies that received Innovation Works investments in 2007.

“We are very pleased to be part of Innovation Works investment portfolio,” said Chief Science Officer Dr. Susan Catalano. “Innovation Works has been a force behind the growing strength of the technology community in Pittsburgh. Cognition Therapeutics is a participant in the economic growth that the region has enjoyed as a result of their efforts.”



Cognition Therapeutics Inc. Chief Science Officer Dr. Susan Catalano (third from left) joins Secretary of Pennsylvania's Department of Community & Economic Development Dennis Yablonsky (fifth from left) and the CEOs of the 2007 investment portfolio companies in congratulating President and CEO Rich Lunak (center) on Innovation Works 100<sup>th</sup> investment in Pittsburgh start-up technology companies.

## **About Cognition**

Cognition Therapeutics, Inc. is a leader in the discovery and development of small molecule therapeutics targeting the toxic proteins that cause the cognitive decline associated with Alzheimer's disease and other degenerative diseases of the human brain. Toxic proteins play a crucial role in a large class of diseases, and there are currently no therapeutics available to prevent or block the destructive effects of toxic oligomeric proteins. Cognition has leveraged its scientific expertise with these difficult targets to pioneer the use of proprietary assays that emphasize functional responses and proprietary medicinal chemistry that ensures novel, high quality small-molecule drug candidates for the treatment of these diseases.

Cognition has developed a number of screening strategies to identify small molecules capable of blocking the central toxicity of proteins in Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative diseases. These assays emphasize phenotypic or functional responses of mature primary neurons to the toxic proteins. Cognition's proprietary chemistry platform converts natural products into low molecular weight chemically stable druglike molecules, and is thus a source of novel pharmacophores and valuable drug candidates. These two technology platforms harken back to the origins of the pharmaceutical industry, when phenotypic responses were the sole screening method and natural product derivatives formed the starting materials for successful drug discovery.

Cognition Therapeutics was founded on small molecule chemical libraries licensed from co-founder Dr. Gilbert Rishton at California State University Channel Islands and proprietary screening strategies established by co-founder and Chief Science Officer Dr. Susan Catalano. After initial investment and relocation to Pittsburgh, the company secured Dr. Hank Safferstein as President and CEO, bringing with him more than 15 years of leadership experience in drug development, commercialization and marketing for a number of public and private companies. [www.cogrx.com](http://www.cogrx.com).

## **About Innovation Works (IW)**

Innovation Works provides risk capital and business expertise to the most promising early-stage technology companies in Southwestern PA to help them grow and succeed. Innovation Works is one of the most active seed-stage investors in the country, having invested in more than 120 emerging technology companies since beginning their seed fund in 1999. Those companies have gone on to raise over \$600 million in additional capital from a diverse set of VCs, private investors, strategic partners and other sources of capital. [www.innovationworks.org](http://www.innovationworks.org)