



Firm at forefront of bioterrorism fight

Mt. Pleasant's GenPhar developing vaccine against deadly Ebola virus

BY LUCIA WALINCHUS
The Post and Courier

Tucked away in an inconspicuous brick office building off Johnnie Dodds Boulevard, a Mount Pleasant company stands apart from the numerous real estate agencies, medical practices and consulting firms nearby.

Tiny GenPhar Inc. is on the forefront of research against potential biological nightmares such as avian flu, the West Nile virus and HIV.

More recently, the local pharmaceutical company has made strides by developing a vaccine that was 100 percent effective in recent trials against the Ebola virus, one of the world's deadliest pathogens.

GenPhar, working with the Army's

Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, recently exposed rhesus monkeys to the virus at 1,000 times the lethal dose, with not a single monkey getting sick.

The FDA said it couldn't comment on whether the vaccine would be approved. However, the promising results could mean a marketable vaccine within a year.

The Ebola virus has killed a few thousand people since the 1970s, when it first was discovered, but with a 50 percent to 100 percent fatality rate, it's one of the deadliest pathogens known.

"This virus is very dangerous," said Dr. John Dong, co-founder, president and chief scientific officer of GenPhar. "If it spread into a modern city with a dense

GenPhar

FOUNDED: 1999 by Dr. John Dong and Dr. Danher Wang.

BUSINESS: Has been focused on developing bio-defense vaccines since 2004.

HEADQUARTERS: Mount Pleasant.

TOP EXECUTIVE: Dr. John Dong.

MISCELLANEOUS: GenPhar has a joint venture with Tsinghua Yuanxing, a China-based pharmaceutical company, to manufacture and market GenPhar's hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV vaccines in China.

population, it's basically a disaster."

Ebola, and its cousin, the Marburg virus, cause high fever, nausea, dizziness and, in some cases, hemorrhagic bleeding.

"We have a product that will save lives, help the nation and gets a good economic

Please see EBOLA, Page 7E



MELISSA HANELINE/STAFF

Dr. David Holman works with a vaccine GenPhar Inc. is developing at its research laboratory in Mount Pleasant.

Financing for artists creative

Groups help with funding, planning

BY DAVE CARPENTER
AP Business Writer

CHICAGO — Being a struggling artist isn't what it used to be. In fact, it might be worse.

Andrew Falkowski thinks so, and it's easy to understand why. The suburban Chicago resident and his wife have a combined five art degrees and six figures in debt because of them.

"Van Gogh was simply broke — he didn't have \$100,000 in debt," said the 32-year-old Falkowski, who makes text paintings but works weekdays as a medical receptionist to make ends meet. "We all should be so lucky."

Mostly self-employed or relying on part-time teaching jobs, many artists tend to have shaky finances and scant prospects for improving them aside from going into another profession. But some institutions have sprung up in recent years to try to help, and ideally thrive financially at the same time.

Artist Pension Trust, Creative Capital and Fractured Atlas are among the options now for artists with talent but limited wherewithal to pursue it. They offer creative workers financial education, career planning help, health insurance — even some steady income.



BRIAN KERSEY/AP

Artists such as Andrew Falkowski, sitting in front of one of his works at his home in Lake Forest, Ill., now can turn to organizations that offer them a variety of ways to establish at least some financial stability.

Persistence and patience still are required in large doses.

Cindy Bernard knows. An accomplished artist in photography and video, the Californian has received a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship, founded and runs a nonprofit organization in Los Angeles dedicated to experimental music and taught at Art Center College in Pasadena for six years.

But like many artists, Bernard still is just scraping by at age 47 through a combination of part-time jobs and art sales. After all, she notes, there are only so many grants out there, and that source of income eventually dries up.

"It's an extremely marginalized realm of work," she said. "There's not a lot of appreciation in this country for intellectuals and artists, especially in the current political climate."

Unlike other countries, which give artists individual grants and will pay to send

Please see ARTISTS, Page 6E



MIKE DERER/AP

Greg "Greg T" Tyndorf kicks up his heels behind a sound board at WKTU radio studios in Jersey City, N.J., where the dance station is offering listeners a new "sideband" format featuring country-and-western music.

A New Side of Radio

BY SETH SUTEL
AP Business Writer

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — From his 16th floor office at WKTU-FM, program director Jeff Zuchowski has a breathtaking view across the Hudson River of Manhattan. Just the setting for programming the only country music station in New York, with favorites such as "Beer for My Horses" and "Life Ain't Always Beautiful."

And if that seems like an odd combination, just think of what regular listeners might say, considering that KTU is known for playing dance music.

Broadcasters going digital, but will listeners follow?

"You don't see a lot of cowboy boots and country hats walking around Manhattan," allows Zuchowski, who goes by Jeff Z. But he insists that country has a "cult following" in the Big Apple.

Few people may be listening for now, but the "side" channel that makes KTU's country music broadcast possible is just the kind of new offering that

radio broadcasters are hoping will help revive their industry as they adopt next-generation digital broadcasting technology, or HD Radio.

Thanks to the compression of data that's possible with digital technology, a station that uses HD Radio can send up to four different signals while still using the same frequency it already

broadcasts on.

HD Radio also claims to have CD-quality sound on FM and FM-quality sound on AM stations, as well as better reception and the possibility of broadcasting data such as song titles and artists names, just as satellite radio does. Think of the better picture quality and extra features you get from a movie on DVD rather than on videotape. Plus, it is possible to offer many other services such as news, sports and weather updates or even buying songs.

However, with only a tiny number of

Please see RADIO, Page 2E



PAUL SAKUMA AND PRNEWSFOTO/SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO/AP

Some traditional radio station owners are beginning to set up side channels in an effort to keep listeners from defecting to competing formats, such as iPod devices (left) and satellite radio.