



Press Release

March 16, 2009

### **Optima Awarded NIH Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Grant**

Optima Neuroscience has been awarded a Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase I grant from the NIH National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). The objective of the project is to develop and commercialize a highly accurate, reliable, and user-friendly seizure monitoring and alert system for use in clinical settings where patients require close seizure monitoring as well as in research labs. The grant will allow Optima to develop a prototype seizure monitoring system to demonstrate the feasibility of its application in an inpatient clinical environment. The company will be working with field-leading researchers at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA to complete the initial clinical trial. Optima plans to submit a Phase II application later this year to further develop and more broadly test the brain monitor.

Dr. Deng-Shan Shiau, VP of Scientific Affairs at Optima, will act as Principal Investigator (PI) for the grant. Though he has a long history of grant research, this represents Dr. Shiau's first awarded grant as PI. "The success of Optima's brain monitor will have significant impact on patients as well as on clinicians," said Dr. Shiau. "It will not only enhance the applicability of brain monitoring for critically ill patients, but also will improve the efficiency of the time-consuming EEG review process that is highly dependent on the limited availability of neurologists with special training."

### **About Optima**

*Optima Neuroscience is a medical device company producing a line of revolutionary brain monitoring products designed for use in hospital intensive care units and emergency rooms. Based in Gainesville, FL, the company is commercializing technology originally invented by researchers at the renowned University of Florida McKnight Brain Institute. As pulse oximeters revolutionized the monitoring of lung function, Optima's products will enable non-specialist care providers to rapidly and accurately obtain critical information about the status of the brain. Optima's first product IdentEvent™, EEG review software with high performance seizure detection, is currently under review by the FDA.*

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.optimaneuro.com](http://www.optimaneuro.com).