MEDIPHAGE BIOCEUTICALS

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PRESS RELEASE

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Mediphage Bioceuticals, Inc. Receives $215K To Support COVID-19 Hiring Needs

Toronto, Ontario – Mediphage Bioceuticals, Inc., a genetic medicine company, developing **safe, effective, and highly-scalable** therapeutics to unlock the power of ***personalized and redosable*** genetic medicine, announced that it was approved for a Mitacs Accelerate grant to fund wages for four graduate and postdoctoral interns directly involved in Mediphage's COVID-19 program.

The funding from Mitacs will allow Mediphage to hire four interns, with various research backgrounds, to support its COVID-19 program. The interns are associated with the Biology Department, School of Pharmacy and the Engineering Department at the University of Waterloo and each will bring diverse expertise that will uniquely support the development of Mediphage's novel and proprietary msDNA-VLP (virus-like particle) vaccine. Shifa Javed and Ko Currie are postdoctoral fellows who will be working on the development of the COVID-19 vaccine. Jennifer Aguiar, a PhD student, will be working on SARS-CoV-2 VLP sequence design and optimization and Gurmeet Lall, also a PhD student, will be responsible for complexing the vaccine with various nanocarriers.

COVID-19 vaccine development is underway in full force at Mediphage's core facility in Toronto.
The program was initiated as Mediphage's response to the current pandemic. Mediphage's msDNA-VLP vaccine has been designed to encode a SARS-CoV-2 VLP, thus mimicking an infection or "synthetic infection" as a safe and durable effort against SARS-CoV-2 infections.

Mediphage is looking forward to working with the new members of its R&D team to drive the development and commercialization of its msDNA-VLP vaccine forward.

About Mediphage

Mediphage Bioceuticals is a precision genetic medicine company with a mission to eradicate suffering from a wide range of chronic diseases through revolutionary therapeutics. The Toronto-based company, founded in January 2016 as a spin-off from the University of Waterloo, uses proprietary *E. Coli*-based manufacturing platforms to generate safe, effective and redosable gene delivery vectors called ministring DNA or msDNA. Mediphage's proprietary msDNA platform is an efficient, customizable, durable, and highly scalable, non-viral gene delivery vector which confers application to *in vivo* and *ex vivo* gene or cell therapies. Mediphage is focusing its internal efforts on developing a therapeutic for Stargardt Disease, an ocular inherited condition caused by a mutation of the large *ABCA4* gene, and more recently, initiated a COVID-19 vaccine development program which employs msDNA to deliver a VLP against SARS-CoV-2. As a platform technology, msDNA has the potential for broad applicability to various gene or cell therapy and gene editing categories including T-cell and B-cell applications, DNA vaccines, iPSC, CRISPR and rAAV production.