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U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command Wins Award

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the Federal Laboratory Consortium this year presented the Regional Excellence in Technology Transfer Award to Ms. Maryam Azarion, Technology Transfer Manager, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command for work to identify Small Molecule Inhibitors of Anthrax Lethal Factors.

Anthrax has recently been the subject of intense interest because of its use as a biological weapon. The inhalation of anthrax spores is usually fatal if it is not properly diagnosed and treated with the antibiotics during the early stages of infection. Unfortunately, the antibiotics that we have today are not always effective, and therefore it has become necessary to formulate a new and more successful treatment for anthrax. To help in this cause and global concern, Microbiotix Inc. has teamed up with the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command (USAMRMC) and the National Institute of Health (NIH). Maryam Azarion, of USAMRMC, was the key player in the development, negotiation and execution of a patent license agreement between Microbiotix and the U.S. Government. Microbiotix was awarded an exclusive license to develop and commercialize a small molecule that has inhibition activity, to prevent and treat anthrax poisoning.

One of the most coveted awards in the field of technology transfer, the FLC awards for Excellence in Technology Transfer recognize laboratory employees who have accomplished outstanding work in the process of transferring Federally-developed technology to the marketplace. The award was made on September 15 at the region's annual meeting.

The Federal Laboratory Consortium is comprised of the technology transfer offices of all of the Federal laboratories throughout the country while its Mid-Atlantic Region focuses on the 70 Federal laboratories in DC, DE, MD, PA, VA and WV.