

PLSG Welcomes Young European Innovator

Slovenian Visiting Via Young Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative

PITTSBURGH (Sept. 22, 2017) –The Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse (PLSG) has hosted Luka Mohoria, a native of Slovenia, for a two-week fellowship that began September 11, 2017. He will undertake projects while sharing information on his work with stem cell treatments for incurable joint and ligament problems of animals.

This exchange program is arranged through the Young Transatlantic Innovation Leaders Initiative (YTILI), part of a program conducted jointly by the U.S. Department of State and the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF).

“We are helping dogs and horses with joint and ligament problems to a future without pain and regained mobility,” explained Mohoria, who serves as chief executive officer of Animacel, a biotechnology company in his home country. “We have developed a service that enabled veterinarians around European Union to offer stem cell treatment safe and efficiently. We have treated more than 400 animals in cooperation with more than 49 clinics in United Kingdom, Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia and Romania.

“This has been as much of a valuable experience for me personally as it was for our company,” he continued. “PLSG gave me a first-row seat view into how they are helping life science based start-ups to grow into sustainable companies, which I can appreciate in building my company in Europe. I leave Pittsburgh with memories of a city with vibrant life sciences entrepreneurship activity, huge potential to develop it further, and many valuable partnerships to establish.”

Part of Mohoria’s YTILI visit was dedicated to seeking venture capital investors and establishing additional partnerships in the U.S.

“We are excited to have hosted Luka at the PLSG,” said Hank Safferstein, PLSG Executive In Residence. “His focus on regenerative medicine and stem cell-based therapeutics in the EU veterinarian markets provided a great opportunity to share experiences.”

YTILI empowers young European entrepreneurs and innovators with the tools, networks, and resources they need to grow their enterprises and contribute more fully to economic development and job creation, security, and good governance in the region. In 2017, the YTILI Fellowship will engage up to 100 young European leaders in a series of professional development and leadership activities that are designed to support the growth and development of commercial and social business ventures in their home communities.

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About the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse

The PLSG is Western Pennsylvania’s only economic development and investment firm dedicated to life sciences. Since its inception in 2002, PLSG has assisted more than 450 life sciences companies, helped create more than 2,300 local jobs and has positively impacted 14,300 more, invested more than \$22 million in nearly 80 companies, and leveraged nearly \$1.8 billion in additional capital to the region. For more information, please visit: www.plsg.com