



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Tammi L. Thomas  
tammi@umbc.edu  
410-455-6784

## **Another Tech Transfer Company Calls UMBC Home**

*Traxion Therapeutics Embraces the techcenter@UMBC Incubator Program*

BALTIMORE, MD (October 10, 2006) – The techcenter@UMBC welcomes Traxion Therapeutics, Inc., a privately held biotech company which came through the University of Maryland, Baltimore County's (UMBC) ACTiVATE program.

“The ACTiVATE program is an excellent resource that allows us to help women entrepreneurs bring technology developed in universities and research institutions into the commercial marketplace,” said Aris Melissaratos, Secretary of Business and Economic Development “Our investment in technology and technology-based companies like Traxion Therapeutics is one reason that Maryland has become a model for other states working to create and develop their technology sectors.”

Traxion Therapeutics is a biotech company focused on the development of novel drugs for the treatment of intractable pain, specifically neuropathic pain.

“techcenter@UMBC is an excellent location to grow our biotech company,” says Kerrie L. Brady, founder and CEO of Traxion Therapeutics. “Its wealth of strategic alliances, outstanding support services, and proximity to federal agencies and world-class research institutions are sure to accelerate our successful business development.”

Neuropathic pain afflicts more than 10 million people in the US alone and the incidence is set to increase significantly. Sales of prescription drugs for neuropathic pain are over \$5 billion and at 7% annual growth, it is one of the most rapidly-growing segments of the pain market.

Traxion has assembled a diversified portfolio of novel, proprietary small molecule products to address this market opportunity. These products use more selective, mechanism-based approaches which utilize recent scientific discoveries to develop more effective, better tolerated treatments for neuropathic pain.

"We are excited to see new companies formed around technologies from research institutions in Maryland and delighted to see them choose techcenter@UMBC's business incubator program," says Stephen Auvil, director of UMBC's office of technology development. “Traxion is an inspiring success story for the ACTiVATE program – one that will surely experience rapid growth.”

Traxion's experienced team plans to take its products through to Phase II proof of concept studies and then enter worldwide corporate partnerships for later-stage development and commercialization.

Brady is an experienced international business development executive with a successful 20 year plus track record in working with both entrepreneurial ventures and established companies. Most

recently, Brady was vice president of business development at KMG Japan Inc. where she established partnerships between Japanese and Western companies. Brady began her career in the healthcare industry with regulatory and marketing positions at Rhone Poulenc.

“We are delighted to see the remarkable growth in tech transfer companies that choose our program to build their businesses successfully,” stated David Fink, techcenter@UMBC biotech entrepreneur in residence. “We have graduated nearly 30 companies – much of our success can be contributed to strong programs that support the growth of tech transfer companies in the IT, engineering, and biotech industries.”

Some of techcenter@UMBC’s services include: entrepreneurs in residence, legal assistance, marketing and public relations strategy, finance and capital counseling and commercialization strategy.

Many corporate sponsors have contributed to the resources provided to techcenter@UMBC start up companies. They include law firm Whiteford, Taylor & Preston L.L.P. and accounting firm Katz, Abosch, Windesheim, Gershman & Freedman, P.A. (KAWG&F). “We appreciate the high level of commitment to building relationships that go beyond the typical role of accounting consultant and legal advisor,” says Ellen Hemmerly, executive director of UMBC Research Park Corporation. “Both firms’ generous support will help strengthen our programs, such as the entrepreneurs in residence, CEO networking luncheons, pro bono legal advice, and monthly bookkeeping.”

**About techcenter@UMBC:** UMBC's technology incubator, founded in 1989, was expanded in 1996 when UMBC purchased the 30-acre five-building Lockheed Martin Research Lab facility site and renamed it techcenter@UMBC. techcenter@UMBC is home to approximately 30 early stage and mature companies. For more information about the techcenter@UMBC visit the website at [www.umbc.edu/techcenter](http://www.umbc.edu/techcenter).

Phase II is bwtech@UMBC, a 41-acre research and technology community. bwtech@UMBC has a total development capacity of up to 330,000 square feet of office and laboratory space. The park will ultimately comprise five new state-of-the-art buildings occupied by research and technology firms. Both projects combined have over 40 tenants representing diverse technologies ranging from mechanical engineering to pharmaceutical research, from environmental sampling to biotechnology. For more information about the bwtech@UMBC Research and Technology Park visit the website at [www.bwtechumbc.com](http://www.bwtechumbc.com).

**About ACTiVATE:** ACTiVATE, which stands for Achieving the Commercialization of Technology in Ventures Through Applied Training for Entrepreneurs, is an entrepreneurship program focused on technology commercialization and economic development. Participants work with technology innovations from universities and research institutions in the region. ACTiVATE is supported by a \$600,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. ACTiVATE is recruiting for its 2007 class, with open houses scheduled for November 8 and December 7, 2006. For more information about the ACTiVATE program visit the website at [www.umbc.edu/activate](http://www.umbc.edu/activate).

###