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## **Embera Ups Series A For Cocaine Addiction Treatment**

Shreveport, La. -- Embera NeuroTherapeutics Inc., an InterTech Science Park tenant, has raised additional Series A financing to advance its lead treatment candidate to treat cocaine addiction, the company told VentureWire.

Embera first closed \$1.3 million toward the round in 2007 and reopened it this year to take in an undisclosed amount of funding, Embera Chairman and Louisiana Ventures Chairman Ross Barrett said. Investors in the round include Louisiana Ventures, Louisiana Fund I and another, unnamed hybrid investor. The valuation of the round was not disclosed.

Shreveport, La.-based Embera is developing treatments for diseases related to addiction, anxiety, depression and similar diseases. The company is conducting initial trials for its lead treatment for cocaine addiction, which aims to break the neural network related to the craving, rather than mimic or block the effect of the drug. That drug is currently in a double-blind placebo-controlled trial at Louisiana State University.

"We will be complete with this current study by the end of the year and have data," Barrett said. "We will immediately go to the FDA and start discussions for a Phase I trial."

Embera will use the new funding for the remainder of its current trials and for the preparation of an Investigational New Drug filing scheduled for next year. The company also plans to continue raising funds in the first quarter of 2009, Barrett said, while a fund-raising target has not yet been set.

Embera was formally founded in 2006 based on the work conducted by company President Nicholas Goeders, who also serves as Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmacology, Toxicology and Neuroscience at Louisiana State University's Health Sciences Center.

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