

# ConjuGon

March 13, 2009

Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin  
2446 Rayburn Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Baldwin:

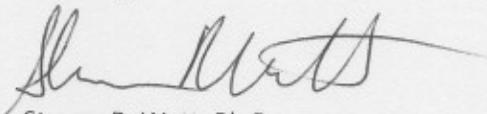
I am writing for ConjuGon, Inc., a Madison, Wisconsin biotechnology company that is trying to secure federal funding to support the testing of a novel and effective treatment for *Acinetobacter baumannii* infections. The technology was first developed at the University of Wisconsin-Madison by professors, and ConjuGon co-founders, Drs. Marcin Filutowicz and Richard Burgess. ConjuGon licenses this technology from the University of Wisconsin through WARF, and we are proud to play an important role in bringing this research to the marketplace.

What is *Acinetobacter baumannii* and why is it important? *Acinetobacter* is a bacterium that has become very resistant to most commonly-used antibiotics, which makes it very difficult to treat. U.S. soldiers, in particular those wounded on the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, are commonly infected with this organism and since these infections cannot be easily treated, the result is often limb amputation and sometimes death. The military recognizes *Acinetobacter* as their most significant infectious disease problem, and at the worst point in the current conflict more than 30% of all patients returning from Iraq and Afghanistan tested positive for this bacterium. It has become a major problem in military care facilities such as the hospital ship U.S.N.S. Comfort, the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Brooke Army Medical Center, but is a growing problem in many civilian hospitals as well. Novel treatments are needed immediately.

ConjuGon, Inc. has advanced a fundamentally new technology to combat this growing epidemic. Testing in the laboratory has shown the treatment to be highly effective against all strains of *Acinetobacter*; in addition, the treatment is very effective against many other important pathogens such as *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Pseudomonas*. Previous support from the U.S. Army in the form of peer-reviewed SBIR grants helped the company to develop the initial product, and currently-awarded funding from the Army will help ConjuGon further develop, manufacture, and test the final product.

ConjuGon's request for FY2010 is necessary to support human clinical trials so that the product can be approved for clinical use. This will be a significant leap forward, and is essential to get the product into combat-support hospitals and military and civilian medical facilities where it is needed most.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Watt, Ph.D.  
Chief Operating Officer