



October 4, 2011

**ZenBio, Inc. Awarded a Phase I SBIR Grant
For the Development of Drug Discovery Platforms for Diabetes and Obesity**

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, NC - ZenBio, Inc. announced that it has been awarded a Phase I SBIR grant to further expand its in-house capabilities for contract research through establishing drug discovery platforms to identify novel therapeutic agents for the treatment of type 2 diabetes and obesity.

Metabolic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, obesity and their related co-morbidities have reached epidemic proportions worldwide. Unfortunately, the identification and development of safe, efficacious treatments is significantly limited. There is an urgent need for innovative medicines to combat both obesity and diabetes. Bentley Cheatham (vice-president, R&D) described that funding from this Phase I SBIR, “will allow ZenBio to expand its offering of contract assay services by driving the development of new *in vitro* and cell-based drug discovery systems, and culminate in the discovery and initial characterization of at least one potential therapeutic for the treatment of diabetes and obesity.”

About ZenBio, Inc.

ZenBio, Inc., a privately held biotechnology company, is a leading provider of research tools for the study of human metabolic disease. Founded in 1995, the company performs contract research for major pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies around the world. ZenBio pioneered tissue engineering with adult adipose-derived stem cells and is currently investigating the role obesity plays in the development and onset of metabolic disease. Its mission is to provide the highest quality cells, reagents and contract services to the biomedical research community; to develop and commercialize research tools; and to leverage its expertise in this field as a contract research organization.

| For more information, contact:

Will Plentl, Director of Business Development

ZenBio, Inc.

Tel. (919)-547-0692; or 1-866-ADIPOSE

Email: will@zenbio.com

www.zenbio.com

#####