

Finding a cure 🖨️

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The Guardian

An Island-based bioscience company is working on groundbreaking research in finding a cure for Parkinson's disease and has received key support this week from the Michael J. Fox Foundation to help further its work.

Neurodyn Inc. has been studying the effects of the neuron-preserving protein Progranulin for a number of years now and through a series of tests on mice, has discovered that it can slow down the evolution of Parkinson's.

The breakthrough caught the attention of the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which came on board this week to support pre-clinical testing of the protein.

According to company CSO Denis Kay the recognition from the foundation is a major step forward for Neurodyn Inc.

He said ultimately the goal would be to complete human testing with the protein,

adding the recent funding has taken the company a step closer to achieving that.

He said thanks to the funding a decision on whether or not the company will be ready to move ahead with that level of testing could be made by the end of the year.

"The Michael J. Fox Foundation funding will allow us to make that decision by the end of this year," Kay said.

Kay said while the testing so far has revealed the protein can slow the evolution of the disease, the end goal would be that it halt the disease altogether, thus providing a cure for people diagnosed early.

"Either would be considered big wins against this progressive neuro-degenerative disease," he said.

As a whole, the company was thrilled to receive the recognition.

"It's a wonderful recognition on the work that we've done," said Kay. "We consider it a seal of approval by a foundation with international reach.

"We're just tickled pink that the science was strong enough to draw interest from the Michael J. Fox Foundation."

So far tests have revealed that the protein has similar stunting effects on various other neurological diseases including Alzheimer's.



Jackaline VanKampen, senior research scientist with Neurodyn Inc., looks at slides of mouse brain tissue in her office Tuesday at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Charlottetown. Guardian photo by Nathan Rochford