LIFE SCIENCES



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Foundation Helps Establish Not-For-Profit Generic Drug Co.



Photo courtesy of Gary and Mary West Foundation Gary and Mary West of their namesake foundation, which funds a number of senior services and initiatives.

San Diego's Gary and Mary West Foundation is helping get off the ground Civica Rx, a new not-for-profit generic drug company with the goal of tackling shortages and high prices of life-saving medications.

The foundation — which funds a number of senior services and initiatives contributed an initial \$1 million to Civica, as well as \$9 million in future loans. The Laura and John Arnold Foundation and the Peterson Center on Healthcare each pledged the same.

Civica Rx said it seeks a stable supply and the affordability of essential generic medicines, many of which are affected by chronic shortages. The initial focus is on 14 hospital-administered generic drugs, but the company didn't name which ones.

The company, headquartered in Utah, expects its first products to be released as early as next year.

In addition to the three foundations, initial governing members will include the U.S. hospital systems Catholic

Health Initiatives, HCA Healthcare, Intermountain Healthcare, Mayo Clinic, Providence St. Joseph Health, SSM Health and Trinity Health.

'The formation of CivicaRx is a direct challenge to generic drug companies who have sharply and unfairly raised prices on many off-patent drugs over the last several years," said Shelley **Lyford**, president and CEO of the Gary and Mary West Foundation. "We all pay a price, and lower-income patients shoulder a particularly heavy burden."

REPORTER'S

NOTEBOOK

Gossamer Names

Chief Science Officer

San Diego-based startup Gossamer

Bio recently lured big-name talent: Lui-

sa Salter-Cid, previously vice president

Salter-Cid will be Gossamer's chief

common to see a top pharmaceutical executive leave for an upstart.

During 13 years at Bristol-Myers

Squibb, where she climbed the ladder,

pounds into clinical development.

Salter-Cid advanced more than 20 com-

has three potential treatments in clinical

trials and one in the research stage, with

"The team and pipeline of innova-

tive and transformative medicines that

Gossamer Bio has assembled are truly

Scooter Riders Find Way

exciting," Salter-Cid said in a statement.

It's no secret that electric scooters are

all the rage. Riders can be found on the

streets of downtown San Diego - and

in emergency rooms. Dr. Michael Sise,

a trauma surgeon and chief of staff

at Scripps Mercy Hospital San Diego,

recently gave several interviews about

the dangers of the urban transportation

"Injuries are coming in fast and furi-

ous," Sise told the Washington Post in a

Sept 6 piece, adding that his team saw

four severe scooter injuries in the week

before the article. "It's just a matter of

lutely certain of it."

time before someone is killed. I'm abso-

Gossamer, which emerged in January,

Gossamer is no average biotech. This summer it hauled in a \$230 million Series B round, and it's led by former **Receptos** executives. But it's not exactly

and head of immunology at pharma-

ceutical giant Bristol-Myers Squibb.

scientific officer.

more to follow.

to the ER

Clearity Marks 10 Years in Ovarian Cancer Fight

Laura Shawver — perhaps best known as the CEO of Synthorx launched the Clearity Foundation

after her own experience with ovarian cancer.

This month marks the 10year anniversary of the foundation, which has grown in ambition and funding.



Through Clearity, ovarian cancer

patients who have recurrent tumors obtain genomic information for deciding on a treatment path, like drugs that may be the most effective. The nonprofit provides tumor blueprints, interpretation, and clinical trial identification free of charge.

This comes after Shawver more than a decade ago learned firsthand that ovarian cancer treatment hadn't changed in a long time.

The nonprofit began as a bootstrapped volunteer effort and transformed into a sophisticated operation under the leadership of

Executive Director Hillary Theakston.

Clearity received \$840,000 in cash donations in 2016, \$1.025 million in 2017 and is expected to hit \$1.8 million in 2018. (The nonprofit's fiscal year ends Sept. 30.)

The next decade looks even more promising.

"This data we've gathered over time — tumor mutation data, outcomes data, clinical history — all of that helps us to be more knowledgeable and expert about ovarian cancer treatment," said Theakston.

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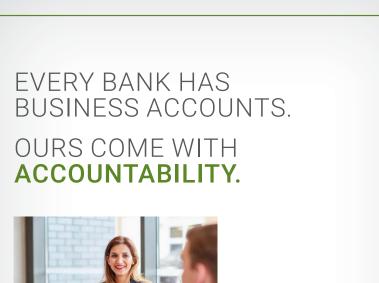
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