PRESS RELEASE

Chicago, IL — October 10, 2026 — Ikaika Therapeutics, a biotechnology company developing novel therapies to prevent fibrosis and preserve organ function, today announced it has been awarded two major non-dilutive federal grants. Ikaika Therapeutics was awarded a Direct to Phase II Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant from the **National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)** at the National Institutes of Health with a budget of $2.2 million over two years. Ikaika Therapeutics also received a $1.3 million award from the **Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDRMP)** at the Department of Defense (DOD). Together, these awards provide critical funding to accelerate the development of Ikaika's proprietary anti-fibrotic pipeline, bridging initial translational research into advanced preclinical studies to enable an Investigational New Drug (IND) application. Both awards will help accelerate the commercialization and clinical readiness of Ikaika's lead therapeutic candidates.

NIH Direct to Phase II SBIR Grant: The Direct to Phase II SBIR award from NIAMS provides funding to advance IND enabling studies for *the evaluation of targeting LTBP4 as a treatment for muscular dystrophies and optimizing anti-LTBP4 monoclonal antibodies as anti-fibrotic therapies*. The funds support key program milestones for fully characterizing therapeutic candidates under GMP-compatible manufacturing conditions and evaluating performance in relevant models. Together, these activities will support a future IND application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

DOD CDRMP Grant: The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDRMP) award provides critical funding to advance Ikaika's anti-fibrotic platform toward optimized leads for further preclinical testing. This award supports antibody engineering to develop novel leads and formulation, specifically optimizing route-of-administration activities, followed by in-vivo efficacy / toxicology assessment of optimized lead assessment of engineered anti-LTBP4 monoclonal antibody therapies.

"We are grateful to the support from NIH and the DOD and their recognition of the unique anti-fibrotic approach being taken by Ikaika Therapeutics," said Elizabeth McNally, CEO at Ikaika Therapeutics. "Fibrosis creates pathology and organ dysfunction in many conditions, affecting muscles, heart and other solid tissues, and represents a critical target for slowing decline and improving function. This combined funding allows us to advance our lead programs toward the clinic, and address devastating fibrotic conditions for the broader patient community."

Ikaika’s investigational therapies are currently in preclinical development and have not yet been tested in humans or approved by the FDA for patient use.

To learn more about Ikaika Therapeutics and its platform, visit ikaikatherapeutics.com.

About Ikaika Therapeutics Ikaika Therapeutics is a biotechnology company focused on discovering and developing first-in-class therapies that target novel genetic pathways to prevent fibrosis and preserve vital organ function.

About NIH Support
Research to be conducted for this project will be supported by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases of the National Institutes of Health under Award Number **1R44AR087317**. The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the National Institutes of Health.

About DOD CDMRP Support
This work is supported by the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP) under Award Number **MD250074,** a grant within CDMRP's Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy Research Program (DMDRP). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of the Department of Defense.