



## Novel Method for Weight Loss

*The University of Florida is actively seeking companies interested in commercializing a novel method for weight loss reduction in humans and animals. Nearly 54% of adults in the U.S. are overweight, and more than 27% percent are considered obese. Even 40% of household pets such as cats and dogs are considered obese by current veterinary medical standards. Treating obesity's related effects, which include high blood pressure, heart disease, eating disorders and diabetes have put a financial strain on obesity patients, as well as the medical and pharmaceutical industries. Additionally, there is no reliable drug for treating obesity efficiently in humans and animals. Researchers at the University of Florida, however, have utilized virus vector biotechnology to help reduce the food intake, adiposity and weight gain that triggers obesity.*

### **Applications**

Novel treatment for the prevention and treatment of obesity, hyperinsulinemia, and weight gain.

### **Advantages**

- ◆ Curbs body weight gain and cholesterol levels, decreasing the risks of hypertension and atherosclerosis
- ◆ Improves insulin sensitivity, reducing the adverse effects of diabetes
- ◆ One-time treatment delivers sustained weight-reducing effects, providing an economically efficient alternative to current treatments

### **The Technology**

A physiological deficiency of pro-opiomelanocortin polypeptides (POMC) in humans and animals has been known to manifest and exasperate conditions like obesity, hyperinsulinemia, weight gain and eating disorders. POMC creates melanocortins, which are bioactive peptides involved in feeding and body weight regulation. By utilizing a novel rAAV vector, scientists can potentially administer POMC into the cells of patients. This will reduce food intake and body weight gain in patients. Through the same novel approach, the vector provides the added benefits of improved insulin sensitivity and reduced serum cholesterol.

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