



## Globe Biomedical Awarded Phase II of Competitive SBIR Grant from the National Science Foundation

*Small Business Innovation Research Program Provides Seed Funding for R&D*

**Riverside, CA, March 26, 2020** – Globe Biomedical has been awarded a National Science Foundation (NSF) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II grant for approximately \$715,000, to continue research and development (R&D) work on a Wearable Blindness Prevention System. The two-year grant will run through March 2022.

Globe’s efforts under the Phase I grant resulted in demonstration of the viability of real-time monitoring of eye pressure, for tracking a patient's risk of glaucoma - the most common cause of irreversible blindness – which is associated with increase in pressure within the eye. Phase II will allow Globe to move towards clinical testing and commercial availability of the Wearable Blindness Prevention System. Globe’s technology uses high-accuracy analysis of images captured by a wearable system to determine the pressure and to alert wearers and caregivers of potential increase in risk. This system is based on patent-pending technology developed at California Baptist University in the Gordon and Jill Bourns College of Engineering.

“NSF is proud to support the technology of the future by thinking beyond incremental developments and funding the most creative, impactful ideas across all markets and areas of science and engineering,” said Andrea Belz, Division Director of the Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships at NSF. “With the support of our research funds, any deep technology startup or small business can guide basic science into meaningful solutions that address tremendous needs.”

“We at Globe are very excited to have the opportunity to continue serving the medical community through the development our eye health monitoring system”, said Dr. Matthew Rickard, CEO of Globe Biomedical. “This new grant from the National Science Foundation will expedite our delivery of functioning Cure™ eyeglass frames into the hands of our medical partners for prototype validation. Globe Biomedical, which was created to advance technologies initiated in the engineering labs at California Baptist University, has greatly benefited from the dynamic infrastructure emerging in the Inland Empire for tech entrepreneurship. We are grateful for the invaluable assistance provided by University of California Riverside’s EPIC Small Business Development Center and the team at ExCITE Riverside in support of Globe’s mission.”

Once a small business is awarded a Phase I SBIR/STTR grant (up to \$256,000), it becomes eligible to apply for a Phase II grant (up to \$1,000,000). Small businesses with Phase II grants are eligible to receive up to \$500,000 in additional matching funds with qualifying third-party investment or sales.

Startups or entrepreneurs who submit a [three-page Project Pitch](#) will know within three weeks if they meet the program’s objectives to support innovative technologies that show promise of commercial and/or societal impact and involve a level of technical risk. Small businesses with innovative science and technology solutions, and commercial potential are encouraged to apply. All proposals submitted to the NSF SBIR/STTR program, also known as America’s Seed Fund powered by NSF, undergo a rigorous merit-based review process. To learn more about America’s Seed Fund powered by NSF, visit: <https://seedfund.nsf.gov/>

**About Globe Biomedical:** Globe Biomedical is a medical device development firm in Riverside, California, specializing in technology solutions for eye health. Globe specializes the commercialization of novel systems for mechanical and biomedical measurements with a focus area in large strain monitoring. Globe Biomedical was formed with the specific purpose of developing and commercializing novel, wearable technology created through innovative biomedical research in the Gordon and Jill Bourns College of Engineering at California Baptist University in Riverside, California.

**About the National Science Foundation's Small Business Programs:** America's Seed Fund powered by NSF awards \$200 million annually to startups and small businesses, transforming scientific discovery into products and services with commercial and societal impact. Startups working across almost all areas of science and technology can receive up to \$1.75 million to support research and development (R&D), helping de-risk technology for commercial success. America's Seed Fund is congressionally mandated through the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The NSF is an independent federal agency with a budget of about \$8 billion that supports fundamental research and education across all fields of science and engineering.