MyPSBank: Specific Investors

Initially, MyPSBank would target grants as a means of funding, specifically Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grants and grants by the Department of Defense (DoD). The purpose of SBIR grants is to support scientific and technological innovation though Federal research funds which seems to apply very well to the concept of MyPSBank. The first phase of SBIR grants is to establish the technical merit, feasibility, and commercial potential of the proposed R/R&D efforts and to determine the quality of performance of the small business awardee organization prior to providing further Federal support in Phase II. Although SBIR Phase I awards normally do not exceed $150,000 total costs for 6 months, it will provide initial funding for MyPSBank. Phase II and III funds will increase to $1 million or more. The specific DoD grant we would seek after would be the Technology/Therapeutic Development Award which supports the development of new technologies or therapies that have a potential to make a strong clinical impact. Maximum funding would be about $1.5 million.

MyPSBank would seek venture capitalists in the biotech community. The concept of MyPSBank is most similar to the start-ups like 23andMe, therefore, the most logical venture capitalists to reach out to would be investors who were interested in 23andMe and similar novel technology and medicine based start-ups. The two prominent biotech venture capitalists that funded 23andMe included MPM Capital and New Enterprise Associates. MPM Capital has over $2 billion in capital, in which approximately 80 percent of the investments are in the drug industry. The company invests at all stages of development, and in rare occasions has started companies from the ground up. Fund managers of MPM Capital are currently very interested in stem cell advances which places MyPSBank as a high contender to be invested in.

New Enterprise Associates (NEA) invests approximately 40 percent of its money in technology and 40 percent of its money in healthcare, both categories of which MyPSBank belongs. NEA is looking particularly for novel, not just incremental gains in therapeutics or platform funds, and MyPSBank fits in this category. The ambitious concept of proposing the first public stem cell bank as “insurance” for customers’ organs is a unique concept that currently does not exist. With MyPSBank, we are opening doors to future regenerative and therapeutic medicine – ambition that NEA is looking for.

Aside from these large VCs, OrbiMed is another possibility to consider. They invest in the health sciences industry and support companies at all stages of development, including large pharmaceutical companies, private start-ups, and even university spinouts.

Angel investors would also be of interest as a means of receiving money at a faster pace despite the smaller amount of funding compared to VC’s. Specifically, MyPSBank would be interested in biology related angel investors, such as Life Science Angels (LSA) which scope out companies which are focused in life sciences, such as pharmaceuticals, diagnostic agents, and cell tech (in which MyPSBank would fit into the third category). The people that LSA look to fund are those with experience in the space being proposed, in which our team consists of three highly competent bioengineering graduate students with skill sets related to stem cell research and two MBA students with engineering backgrounds.