

## **New biotech Motega Health focuses on targeted delivery technologies**

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Newly-established biotechnology firm Motega Health has launched an oral-mucosal sustained delivery product to aid drug absorption across multiple species.

Based in Lawrence, Kansas, the firm is a joint venture with St Louis based Shear Kershman labs and specializes in targeted drug and nutraceutical delivery mechanisms. Motega Health is also developing multiple technologies for oral-mucosal applications – different active pharmaceutical ingredients; oral, vaginal and anal absorption; and targeted release technologies – to avoid delivering drugs as a pill or tablet. The firm has chosen Cedoga Consulting and Mokahn Animal Health, also of Lawrence KS, among others, to drive these technologies in the animal health space, while Motega Health will focus on human health.

The firm's technologies work by bypassing first pass metabolism to ensure systemic absorption. The firm also has sustained release and targeted release technologies, for example creating a system to ensure enzymes can bypasses the stomach and deposit and release into the small intestine.

Speaking to *Animal Pharm* at the recent Kansas City Animal Health Investment Forum, Blake Hawley – chief executive of Motega – detailed what every vet and pet owner knows...giving an animal a pill can be problematic. For example, it can be difficult to administer a pill to cats. This results in some cats only receiving part of the drug, but also considerable stress on both the cat and their owner.

"The technologies we are developing allow you to apply a compound with API to the gums with a little device and the API is absorbed directly into the bloodstream," he said. "Our technologies range from large to small molecules, to nutraceuticals and even foods. We also provide consulting services and solve companies' biggest headaches from process engineering to pipeline development and extending patent windows."

Motega intends to commercialize its technology in both the global animal health and human health markets through partnerships brokered by Cedoga or directly through Mokahn Animal Health.

Dr Hawley added: "My focus is to get these technologies out to as many different pet owners and livestock producers as far and wide as we can with our licensing model.

"If you think about the small animal market, you've really got about 80% of it in the US and Europe. Plus, there's a huge swine market in China and growing livestock markets in Brazil, so you're really looking at the US, China, Brazil and Europe as the main markets globally. You really have to look at the species more than the region.

"What we're hoping to do is to solve problems, which in the past people wouldn't have been able to solve."

Dr Hawley has a 30 year history working in animal health across more than 23 countries and multiple firms in both pet food and pharmaceutical development.