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Gary A. Leo joins SMDG as Senior VP of Corporate Development

(Denver, CO, April 27, 2018) – SMDG (S.M. Discovery Group), a life science bio-nanotechnology company that has developed an innovative nano-delivery system for unimpeded penetration of physiological barriers including the Blood-Brain Barrier, announced the addition of Gary A. Leo as its Senior Vice President of Corporate Development.

Leo will initially focus on helping SMDG secure its early stage funding, according to Dr. Shadi Farhangrazi, SMDG CEO and co-founder. “Gary’s extensive experience in fundraising and his tremendous knowledge of CNS diseases will be instrumental in assisting SMDG’s Series-A fundraising,” said Farhangrazi.

Leo brings more than 40 years of development experience that has generated over \$500 million in funding. He most recently served as president and chief executive officer for the ALS Association, the preeminent U.S. organization fighting Lou Gehrig’s disease. Prior to that, Leo served as senior vice president for development at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and earlier as national vice president and executive director of the Western Region of the American Society for Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

Leo holds a master’s degree in social work administration from Rutgers University In New Jersey, a master’s degree in educational administration from New York University and a bachelor’s degree in economics from Queens College in New York.

SMDG has developed a proprietary self-assembled nano-platform from a peptide ligand for “active (or receptor)-targeting” of physiological barriers. Based on industry “simple- and safe-by-design” standards and a decade of research from one of the top nanomedicine laboratories in Europe, its innovative, patent-protected platform is a versatile and multifunctional disruptive technology that overcomes specificity and target binding avidity limitations in “active-targeting” with particulate drug carriers. SMDG’s technology has proven to be highly efficacious in crossing biological barriers (including the Blood-Brain-Barrier) without inducing any toxicity effects. SMDG is currently focusing on its Series A fundraising round.
