



## **MyoKardia, on way to potential IPO, lands big funding**

**Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal Thursday 30th April, 2015**

**MyoKardia, led by CEO Tassos Gianakakos, has raised nearly \$100 million in funding since it was founded in 2012.**

**MyoKardia Inc., which started human clinical trials this year on a drug aimed at genetic heart disease, landed \$46 million in Series B funding, the company said Thursday.**

**Launched by Third Rock Ventures, the South San Francisco company said the money came from an undisclosed public investment fund, along with Casdin Capital, hedge fund Cosmorant Asset Management, Perceptive Life Sciences and BridgeBio LLC. Existing investor Sanofi, a French drug maker, also invested in the round.**

**MyoKardia, a potential IPO candidate led by CEO Tassos Gianakakos, started a Phase I clinical trial in January with a drug, called MYK-461, that targets hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, or HCM. The condition causes a thickening of the heart muscle, making the heart less efficient and leading to sudden cardiac arrest.**

**HCM is the condition that in 1993 killed Boston Celtics star Reggie Lewis.**

**The company uses genetics to identify disease mechanisms something common in cancer drug development but used less-often in other diseases and is able to subtype HCM based on those genetics. That approach potentially could lead to several narrowly focused HCM drugs.**

**MyoKardia also is working on drugs for a mirror condition, dilated cardiomyopathy, or DCM, which is a thinning of the heart muscle.**

**MyoKardia, founded in 2012, by Stanford University biochemistry professor James Spudich and others, initially was funded by Third Rock with \$38 million. Sanofi then jumped in with an upfront cash payment and took an equity stake. It followed that last year with a commitment of about \$155 million through 2018 for R&D work.**