



Life sciences startup moves to Chapel Hill

Life sciences startup EpiCypher has shifted its headquarters from Texas to Chapel Hill after naming a Triangle executive CEO.

The eight-employee company announced this week that Sam Tetlow has been appointed the company's first CEO.

"We've got an excellent set of products and a world-renowned group of scientific founders," he said.

Tetlow most recently was chief business officer at ILS, a for-profit environmental and health research firm based in Research Triangle Park. He previously was the first general manager of the company's ILS Genomics subsidiary and also was a partner at Research Triangle Ventures, a Triangle venture capital firm.

EpiCypher's epigenetics products are used for pharmaceutical and biotechnology research. Epigenetics is the study of changes in the body that stem from factors other than DNA, such as from the environment.

EpiCypher, which was formally launched in 2012 and initiated "active operations" about a year ago, has more than a dozen products that fall into two categories, or product families, according to Tetlow.

The company previously raised \$200,000 in angel funding and Tetlow doesn't foresee raising additional funds right now "because of our commercial success."

"Depending on the month, we are generally cash-flow positive," he said. He declined to disclose the company's revenue.

Six of the company's employees are based in Chapel Hill.

"We are in growth mode," Tetlow said. We expect to add two more (employees) in the next month or so."

EpiCypher also has been accepted into the Blackstone Entrepreneurs Network. Funded by the giant New York private equity firm The Blackstone Group, the Entrepreneurs Network has a blue-chip roster of mentors that work with entrepreneurial companies.