

## MOLECULERA LABS

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### The Serial Mindset

If there was a perfect match for the term “serial entrepreneur,” it might be Dr. Craig Shimasaki, co-founder and CEO of Oklahoma City-based Moleculera Labs.

Since the early 1990s, he has been involved in the founding of three Oklahoma City-based bioscience companies, ZymeTx, InterGenetics and most recently, Moleculera Labs.

Research support from OCAST has been an important element of Dr. Shimasaki’s entrepreneurial journey for more than a quarter of a century.

“My first interaction with OCAST was probably in the early 1990s when we started a company that was focused on ways to identify influenza in a physician’s office,” he said. “We applied for and received OCAST support.”

Funding support from OCAST along with matching investment dollars raised by ZymeTX co-founders helped the team build the company, receive FDA approval for its ZStatFlu test and eventually become a publicly traded company.

Dr. Shimasaki credits the impact of OCAST and its partners for helping him build successful enterprises.

“I would say that we have been successful because of the support that we have had from OCAST and its partners,” Dr. Shimasaki said. “They have been very critical to the development of a bioscience and technology ecosystem here in Oklahoma.”

InterGenetics developed a DNA-based test for women that indicated their likelihood to develop breast cancer. Moleculera Labs is commercializing a set of diagnostics for neuropsychiatric conditions using technology that was developed in the laboratory of University of Oklahoma researcher Dr. Madeleine Cunningham.

“We provide blood testing mostly for children who have these treatable neuropsychiatric conditions that are triggered by infections,” Dr. Shimasaki said. “When we identify what is happening in their bloodstream, they can be treated and the symptoms resolved.”

Moleculera Labs offers the testing in a certified laboratory setting from the University Research Park and in less than two years has already conducted 3,500 tests for children from around the world.

Whether it is diagnostic testing for influenza, breast cancer or neuropsychiatric conditions in children, Dr. Shimasaki said he is proud to have been a part of technologies that have positive impacts on the lives of people.

It all goes with the territory of being a “serial entrepreneur.”

“When you think about it, every large organization was at one time an entrepreneurial company, started up by a handful of people,” Dr. Shimasaki said. “I think these entrepreneurial, forward-looking ideas that OCAST represents are so vitally important to the state.”

[Read the 2017 OCAST Impact Report](#)

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