



VENTURE INVESTORS

*Turning Innovation into Health*

## **Venture Investors Announces Final Closing on Venture Investors Health Fund 6 Limited Partnership**

*Early Stage \$75 million fund is focused on healthcare opportunities emerging from  
Midwestern university ecosystems*

**Madison, WI and Ann Arbor, MI, October 2, 2019** -- Venture Investors LLC today announced the final closing on Venture Investors Health Fund 6 Limited Partnership, a \$75 million healthcare focused venture capital fund.

Venture Investors has a long history as a leading source of venture capital financing for spin-outs from major research university ecosystems in the Midwest. The firm has offices in the backyards of two of the largest research universities in the country, University of Wisconsin-Madison and University of Michigan, with combined research spending of over \$2.5 billion. “These great research institutions are at the forefront of innovation. We have backed more than 40 university spin-outs commercializing innovative solutions to the biggest challenges in healthcare,” said Jim Adox, Managing Director.

The firm’s success in healthcare has enabled the fund to build strong relationships with successful serial entrepreneurs, experienced advisors, co-investors, and acquirers. “Three out of the first four investments of our new fund are led by entrepreneurs we successfully backed before,” said Scott Button, Managing Director. “Many of our advisors were a part of past portfolio companies. People are the most important part of this business.”

Joe Amaral, MD, has joined the team as Chief Medical and Scientific Advisor. He most recently served as VP of Surgical Innovation at Johnson and Johnson. “Joe brings extraordinary experience, which ranges from serving as a hospital CEO to a senior role in industry. His industry knowledge and perspective are already proving to be extraordinarily valuable,” said Paul Weiss, PhD, Managing Director.

“Venture Investors is fortunate to have great limited partners,” said John Neis, Managing Director. “The State of Wisconsin Investment Board has been a long-time investor and supporter of Venture Investors’ funds. Advocate Aurora is one of the 10 largest health systems in the United States and a new investor. Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation has been a long-time investor, supporter of the local venture capital ecosystem, and partner in creating many breakthrough healthcare companies based on research performed at the University of Wisconsin.” Other investors include the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, WEA Trust and MGE Energy.

Venture Investors also opened a Milwaukee office with the formation of the new fund. “We have backed several Milwaukee-based companies over the years and concluded that a physical presence would help us be more actively engaged in the entrepreneurial community here,” said David Arnstein, Managing Director, who is based in the Milwaukee office.

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The fund's first four investments are:

- Invenra, Inc., the developer of a proprietary drug discovery platform that enables the rapid identification of optimal combinations of epitope, affinity, and geometry of multi-specific antibodies for immuno-oncology and other indications. Founder Roland Green was previously a co-founder of Venture Investors' portfolio company NimbleGen Systems.
- ViaLase, Inc., the developer of a femtosecond surgical treatment for primary open-angle glaucoma. Founder Tibor Juhasz was previously a co-founder of Venture Investors' portfolio companies IntraLase and LenSx.
- HistoSonics, Inc., the developer of a non-invasive autonomous robotic platform capable of destroying tissue at the sub-cellular level. Several members of the team, including CEO Mike Blue, were previously a part of the team at Venture Investors' portfolio company NeuWave Medical.
- Eximis Surgical, Inc., the developer of a surgical platform that enables specimen removal in laparoscopic surgery.

### **About Venture Investors**

Venture Investors is a premier provider of venture capital funding and company building expertise to early-stage healthcare companies. With a Midwest focus and national reach, we have a track record of working with passionate entrepreneurs to advance solutions to the market that address the world's biggest health challenges. Venture Investors is focused on investment opportunities in healthcare, principally those emerging from ecosystems surrounding major research universities in the Midwest. Formed in 1982, Venture Investors has offices strategically located next to the country's second and sixth largest research institutions in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Madison, Wisconsin.

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