

AmideBio's Misha Plam Receives SBA Award for Exceptional Innovation

Tibbetts Awards honor Projects and Individuals that bring federal R&D from the lab to the market

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Boulder, CO—AmideBio, LLC today announced that its co-founder and CEO, Dr. Misha Plam, has received the [Tibbetts Award](#) from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for his distinguished record of entrepreneurship and innovation and for his contributions in promoting the SBA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program in the U.S. and abroad, especially in Russia and China.

Companies founded by Dr. Plam in Boulder, Colorado have received numerous SBIR awards during the past three decades. All of these companies were spin-offs applying technology developed by scientists at the University of Colorado in Boulder. SBA presents the Tibbetts Award to companies and individuals that have advanced technological innovation and economic growth.

According to Dr. Plam, "Boulder companies with which I have been associated have won numerous SBIR grants, and we have always made the SBIR Program a cornerstone of our business development strategy. This strategy enabled us to innovate more rapidly and create more new jobs than would have been possible without the SBIR Program."

One of Dr. Plam's most successful companies was Sievers Instruments. "At Sievers Instruments, we leveraged angel and venture capital investments with SBIR Phase I and Phase II grants. From 3 people, we grew a company that had 200 employees when it was sold," continued Dr. Plam. "Today, thanks to our SBIR success, Sievers Instruments continues to flourish as part of GE."

Dr. Misha Plam, CEO of AmideBio, accepted the award at a ceremony this morning in Washington, DC. Afterward he met with SBA Administrator, Karen Mills, and attended a reception at the White House.

"This is a proud day not only for Misha Plam, but also for the city of Boulder," said [Sean Greene](#), SBA's Associate Administrator for Investment and Senior Adviser for Innovation. "People like Misha represent the best in American ingenuity."

AmideBio is Dr. Plam's most recent entrepreneurial company, which he co-founded in 2009 with Dr. Michael Stowell, a professor at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Based on technology developed by Dr. Stowell, AmideBio is pursuing innovative programs to improve the quality and lower the cost of producing pharmaceutical peptides and proteins, with a particular focus on treatments for Alzheimer's disease and diabetes. The company's goal is to contribute to improvement in the health care system by producing lower-cost drugs with enhanced efficacy.

BACKGROUND PROFILE – MISHA PLAM

Dr. Mikhail "Misha" Plam is widely known for his entrepreneurial success, long-time support for the Small Business Administration's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, and distinguished advocacy of the program's philosophy in Russia and China. Based in Boulder, Colorado, Dr. Plam has founded and developed successful companies such as Sievers Instruments, BiOptix, and, currently, AmideBio.

Dr. Plam, a serial entrepreneur, was an early and enthusiastic adopter of the SBIR program as a way to match his companies' commercially-oriented R&D with national R&D priorities. During his remarkable career, he has successfully started a string of science and technology-based small businesses that have fostered innovation and created jobs. One of his companies, Sievers Instruments, received its first SBIR grant in 1984; his latest grant was issued in 2008, with a long string of awards between those dates.

Several of Dr. Plam's companies have achieved significant business success. An innovative product pioneered by Sievers Instruments (now part of GE) and funded in part through SBIR was used by NASA in the life support system on the Russian Mir Space Station and on the International Space Station. Among his greatest contributions, however, has been his decades-long advocacy for the SBIR program and its goals. For example, he played a forceful role in defending the SBIR program in 1988 when it was proposed to be abolished. Dr. Plam testified on behalf of small businesses to the National Science Foundation at the invitation of Roland Tibbetts and helped convince the Director of NSF to save the program.

In the last decade, Dr. Plam has significantly broadened the international scope of the SBIR program in Russia and China, including numerous lectures and workshops in both countries, both on his own and in collaboration with U.S. government representatives. He has also continued to foster new collaborations with the University of Colorado through its Technology Transfer Office, which recently awarded him its first Serial University Start-Up Entrepreneur Award.

Dr. Plam and his family emigrated to the U.S. from Russia in 1977. His is a classic American immigrant success story. His wife, Olga, is a well-known artist, widely recognized for her still life paintings.