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**PITTSBURGH LIFE SCIENCES GREENHOUSE, COMMITTING TO INCREASED  
UNIVERSITY COMMERCIALIZATION, BRINGS ON MARISSA KUZIRIAN AS  
EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE**

**PITTSBURGH, Pa.** – March 13, 2017 – [Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse](#) (PLSG), Western Pennsylvania’s only pure life sciences investment firm, today announced that Dr. Marissa Kuzirian has joined the PLSG as Executive Associate.

With a PhD in Neuroscience from Brandeis University, Kuzirian came to the University of Pittsburgh as a Postdoctoral Scholar, funded by the NIH to study neural circuits. Once there, she served as Vice President of Business Development for Fourth River Solutions, a non-profit consulting group run by STEM students and postdocs, who apply their academic skills to real-world business and technology transfer issues.

“We are thrilled to add Marissa’s depth of scientific knowledge, particularly in support of university investment in brain science, to our team.” said Jim Jordan, President and CEO of PLSG. “The universities’ output in pharmaceutical startups has increased dramatically, and having Marissa at the PLSG gives us more capacity to support this growth.”

“I pursued a postdoc, as many people do, to perform translational research and gain business experience with an eye toward eventually moving into industry,” adds Kuzirian. “The University of Pittsburgh has top ranked programs in translational research, and the Innovation Institute has a tremendous reputation for training students to work in an entrepreneurial environment. Through exceptional programming such as the Blast Furnace, I knew I’d gain the qualifications I needed here in Pittsburgh. The relationship between the Innovation Institute and the PLSG allowed me to demonstrate my skills and afforded me this opportunity. I’m delighted to join the PLSG team.”

Dr. Marc Malandro, the Founding Director of the University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute and the Vice Chancellor of Technology Management and Commercialization, notes “The university has made significant investment in both its entrepreneurial students and in commercializing university research. We are pleased to see the PLSG aligning its investments and programs with the goals of the university to increase our impact in the region. The PLSG’s commitment to this kind of local economic development will help ensure more of these technologies are the basis for new opportunities in the region.”

The PLSG guides researchers, entrepreneurs and emerging start-up companies through defining their products' benefits and navigating the many challenges that arise during the early stages of company development. Ultimately, the PLSG helps bring life-changing health solutions to market, improving overall population health.

**About Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse (PLSG) ([www.plsg.com](http://www.plsg.com))**

The PLSG invests in and supports the growth of life science and healthcare IT companies in Western Pennsylvania. PLSG has a track record of excellence when it comes to attracting and growing life sciences companies in the region. Since its inception in 2002, PLSG has assisted more than 450 life sciences companies and has helped create more than 2,300 jobs and has affected another 14,300 jobs in Western Pennsylvania. Forty companies have been provided with office or laboratory space and now 14 companies and 15 C-level executives have been relocated to Pittsburgh from outside of region. In addition, the PLSG has invested directly and indirectly more than \$22 million in nearly 80 companies, which has leveraged nearly \$1.8 billion in additional capital to the region.

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