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Quaker BioVentures Nears \$250M Close on First Fund

Quaker BioVentures, a Philadelphia firm that looks to back early- to mid-stage biotechnology companies, is gearing up to close its debut fund at about \$250 million.

The firm, which has made a handful of investments over the past few years, has raised about \$200 million and expects to wrap up the fund shortly, said Managing Partner Dr. Brenda D. Gavin. The state of Pennsylvania has invested some of its share of the tobacco settlement in Quaker's first partnership.

Quaker seeks startups ranging from New York to North Carolina, a region it regards as underserved by health care investors. The firm plans to invest from \$5 million to \$20 million per company.

In March, Quaker teamed up with Philadelphia-based **LLR Partners** in a \$28.6 million initial round for **Medmark Inc.**, Pittsburgh, a "specialty pharmacy" that provides specialty drugs and related supplies and services.

Also in March, Quaker joined with **Prism Venture Partners** to co-lead a \$30 million second round for **BioRexis Pharmaceutical Corp.**, a King of Prussia, Pa., company that it had first backed in July 2002.

BioRexis has developed a means of engineering protein and peptide drugs into a carrier molecule that lengthens the protein or peptide's half-life, resulting in a product that requires fewer dosings and potentially causes fewer side effects.

Most recently, Quaker co-led a \$63 million fourth round for **Eximias Pharmaceutical Corp.**, a Berwyn, Pa., specialty pharmaceutical company testing two cancer therapies in late-stage clinical trials. (See item on page 12.)

In addition to Dr. Gavin, Quaker's managing partners are P. Sherrill Neff and Ira M. Lubert. The firm will likely add to its team if it reaches the \$250 million target. Reach Quaker BioVentures at (215) 988-6800.

Notable Open Funds (\$ in millions)

	Target
Cross Atlantic Partners K/S V, L.P. Cross Atlantic Partners Inc. <i>New York</i>	\$100
CXO Life Science Fund CXO Life Science Partner <i>Houston</i>	\$30
Quaker BioVentures Quaker BioVentures Inc. <i>Philadelphia</i>	\$250