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Startup takes aim at AIDS

BY RON LEUTY
San Francisco Business Times

Startup Presidio Pharmaceuticals Inc. — fresh off bringing aboard AIDS treatment pioneer Dr. Marcus Conant as chief medical officer — is raising about \$16 million to combine office and lab space and push forward on research.

Presidio, which expects to close on its second round of funding at the end of July, is developing a drug for treatment of HIV infection and is using technology developed at Stanford University to identify a small molecule that inhibits the Hepatitis C virus. Those projects, Conant hopes, will create a platform of drugs to treat AIDS and other viral diseases.

But as promising as those may be, it is Conant's star power in the AIDS arena and CEO Omar Haffar's experience, dating back to work in the 1980s on an AIDS



NAJIB JOE HAKIM

SEE BIOTECH, 56 **CEO Haffar: "This disease is getting cloaked, but it's not going away."**

S.F. expands tax break for business

Redrawn enterprise zone benefits blight and might

BY ERIC YOUNG
San Francisco Business Times

San Francisco has expanded its enterprise zone, allowing potentially thousands more businesses to apply for millions of dollars in state tax breaks.

The boundaries of the newly drawn zone, which gives tax breaks to businesses to boost employment, include all of the Van Ness Avenue corridor, the Financial District, North Beach, the Embarcadero, the Transbay Terminal area, Hunters Point/Bay View and Visitacion Valley. There are an estimated 30,500 businesses in the zone, more than double the number from when the perimeter was first drawn in 1992.

"In one fell swoop we have an enterprise zone that captures the fastest-growing part of the south of

SEE BREAK, 56

Marin General short on saviors

CHW, Sutter give thumbs down

BY CHRIS RAUBER
San Francisco Business Times

Marin General Hospital, about to be divorced by Sutter Health, is running short of other potential marriage partners.

Catholic Healthcare West this week became the latest large hospital operator to say it's not interested in taking over the 55-year-old hospital when Sutter leaves sometime between January 2009 and mid-2010.

"Apparently, they've looked at the numbers and it doesn't make any sense" for CHW to get involved, said Dr. Larry Bedard, a member of the Marin Healthcare District board, adding that former San Francisco

Mayor Willie Brown had served as a conduit between the district board and Catholic Healthcare West CEO Lloyd Dean.

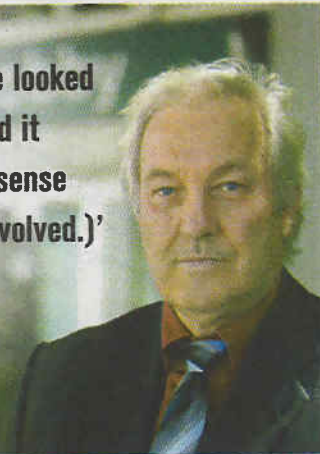
The district owns the hospital and leased it to Sutter on a long-term basis.

Tricia Griffin, a spokeswoman for San Francisco-based CHW, confirmed the system is "not pursuing

SEE GENERAL, 57

'Apparently, they've looked at the numbers and it doesn't make any sense (for CHW to get involved.)'

Dr. Larry Bedard
Member of the Marin Healthcare District board



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Webcor ranked No. 1 among contractors.

