Bozeman firm receives \$210K federal grant

Bozeman-based Montana Molecular Inc. has received a \$210,092 federal grant to continue its clinical research related to neurological functions and disorders, and that could one day lead to new treatments for diseases such as Alzheimers, Parkinsons and stroke.

The 4-year-old company develops new fluorescent molecules used to label specific cells in the nervous system. The molecules will help neuroscientists see and measure the processes in the brain.

"The work going on at Montana Molecular is very exciting, and a great example of the innovative and brilliant companies and researchers we have here in Big Sky country," U.S. Sen. Max Baucus said in a written statement announcing the grant Monday.

Baucus and U.S. Sen. Jon Tester announced the grant in a written news release Monday.

"The work they're doing at Montana Molecular is particularly inspiring," Tester said. "Simply put, this money is an investment in reducing pain and improving lives."

The Department of Health and Human Services awarded the grant through the office of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. The official title of the project is "A New Modular Tool Set for Live Imaging and Manipulating the Nervous System."