

The Berke Report Second Half of Feb 2023 Financings News

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- 03.01.23 TandemAl raises \$35M in Series A for small molecule discovery, wet labs (endpts)
 - TandemAI, a small molecule- and preclinical-focused technology company, raised \$35 million in a Series A round of financing a little over a year after raising an initial \$25 million to get started. TandemAl's drug discovery platform has a physics-based approach to molecule and atom simulations. The platform allows scientists to look at the structure activity relationships (SAR) between proteins and molecules. This then gives scientists ideas on how to refine the molecule structure so that they can find the best molecule for the client. While there are companies that offer these tools, it's usually a subscription-based offering. TandemAl hopes to break down barriers to access, especially for startups, by offering computational simulations, wet labs and experts in both all at once to make the later stages of drug development more successful.
- 03.01.23 Chroma Medicine Secures \$135M in Series B Financing to Advance Breakthrough Epigenetic Editing Technology and Expand Pipeline of Durable Precision Genomic Medicines (PR)
 - Funding to progress Chroma's single-dose epigenetic editing therapies and support expansion of novel genetic medicine platform designed to enable precise gene regulation while preserving genomic integrity. Financing led by GV, with participation from ARCH Venture Partners, DCVC Bio, Mubadala Capital, Sixth Street, xisting investors, including Alexandria Venture Investments, Atlas Venture, Casdin Capital, Cormorant Asset Management, Janus Henderson Investors, Newpath Partners, Omega Funds, Osage University Partners, Sofinnova Partners, T Rowe Price, and Wellington Management. The financing will support advancement of Chroma's therapeutic programs toward the clinic, and continued investment in the company's core epigenetic editing platform.
- 03.01.23 Thymmune Secures \$7M in Seed Financing to Develop Thymus Cell Therapy Platform for Immune System Renewal (PR)
 - \$7 million in seed financing led by Pillar VC, with participation from NYBC Ventures and other investors. Its investor base includes industry pioneers Mark Bamforth, Founder of Brammer Bio and Arranta Bio, James Fordyce, John Maraganore, Ph.D., Former Founding CEO at Alnylam, Judy Pagliuca at PagsGroup, and Philip Reilly, M.D., J.D., along with George Church, Ph.D., who is a scientific advisor to the company. The financing will be used to advance Thymmune's lead product THY-100 into preclinical studies in immune system disorders caused by thymic deficiencies (such as children born without a thymus), which result in a lack of functional T cells. The funding will also be used to develop its thymic cell engineering platform and expand into additional indications across areas of unmet clinical need in immunology. The thymus is a critical organ in the immune system that regulates and develops T cells, which are essential for fighting infection and disease, along with mounting effective responses to vaccines. As part of the natural aging process, the functional thymus begins to shrink and its ability to produce naïve T cells decreases, leading to immune dysfunction and disease.
- 03.01.23 CARGO Therapeutics Raises \$200 Million in Oversubscribed, Upsized Series A Financing to Advance its Pipeline of Next Generation CAR T-Cell Therapies (PR)
 - Series A financing co-led by Third Rock Ventures, RTW and Perceptive Xontogeny Venture Fund, and includes new investors Nextech, Janus Henderson Investors, Ally Bridge Group, Wellington Management, T. Rowe Price, Cormorant Asset Management and Piper Heartland with participation from existing seed investors. Initial Phase 1 results with CARGO's CD22 CAR T-cell therapy demonstrated durable complete responses in greater than 50% of patients with large B-cell lymphoma (LBCL) that is relapsed/refractory (R/R) to CD19 CAR T-cell therapy. CARGO plans to commence Phase 2 pivotal trial of CRG-022 (CD22 CAR) in mid-2023 in patients with LBCL that is R/R to CD19 CAR T-cell therapy. CD22 CAR has been granted Breakthrough Therapy Designation by the FDA, which is intended to expedite the development and review of drugs for patients with significant unmet need. CARGO Therapeutics was launched in 2021 by Samsara BioCapital in collaboration with CAR T pioneers, Crystal Mackall, MD, and Robbie Majzner, MD, and accomplished cancer advocate, Nancy Goodman, JD -
- 02.28.23 Eluminex Biosciences Closes \$40+ Million Series B Financing (medtechalert)
 - Eluminex is a clinical-stage biotechnology company dedicated to the research and development of global innovative therapeutics with a major focus in ophthalmology and recombinant human collagen technology. Its headquarters and research and development center are located in BioBAY of Suzhou Industrial Park, China, with a clinical and registration center located in South San Francisco, California. Eluminex's pipeline programs include novel multitargeted antibody molecules for vision-threatening retinal diseases, an oral small molecule for rare inherited pediatric retinal dystrophies, and the clinical development and manufacturing of recombinant human collagen-based products with the potential to be world's first biosynthetic cornea for the treatment of corneal stromal blinding diseases. The Company is currently building a GMP facility in BioBAY of Suzhou Industrial Park for the manufacturing of the recombinant human collagen biosynthetic cornea and other collagen-based products and is expected to operate in mid-2023.

- 02.27.23 Aprea Therapeutics Announces Closing of \$5.5 Million Underwritten Public Offering of Common Stock (PR)
 - Aprea Therapeutics, Inc. (Nasdaq: APRE) ("Aprea", or the "Company"), a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing novel synthetic lethality-based cancer therapeutics targeting DNA damage response (DDR) pathways, today announced the closing of its previously announced underwritten public offering of 1,050,000 shares of its common stock at a public offering price of \$5.25 per share. The net proceeds received from the public offering will enable the Company to continue developing its clinical asset, ATRN-119, its pre-clinical asset ATRN-W1051 and for general corporate purposes.
- 02.24.23 ASLAN Pharmaceuticals Announces \$20M Private Placement Led by BVF Partners L.P. With the Potential to Receive Up to an Additional \$80M (PR)
 - ASLAN to receive \$20 million in financing with the potential to receive up to an additional \$80 million for an aggregate of \$100 million to continue advancing the clinical development of eblasakimab and farudodstat. ASLAN's expected cash runway extended through at least the second quarter of 2024, and potentially further in accordance with additional warrants exercisable following topline data readouts from the TREK-AD study in early July 2023 and the planned farudodstat proof of concept trial in 2024. Farudodstat proof of concept trial in autoimmune skin disease expected to be fully funded to completion.
- 02.16.23 Aera Therapeutics Launches with \$193 Million in Financing to Enable and Advance the Next Generation of Transformative Genetic Medicines (PR)
 - Aera Therapeutics announced its launch today with a vision to harness its proprietary delivery platform to unlock the potential of genetic medicines across a wide range of modalities and therapeutic areas. Aera's delivery platform is based on research conducted in the laboratory of scientific founder Feng Zhang, Ph.D., core member of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, McGovern Institute investigator, the James and Patricia Poitras Professor of Neuroscience at MIT and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, and is designed to address the limitations of today's delivery technologies in order to more broadly enable new genetic medicines. The company has raised \$193 million in combined Series A and B financings led by ARCH Venture Partners, GV and Lux Capital. Aera's founding leadership and board of directors includes:
 - Akin Akinc, Ph.D., chief executive officer and board member
 - John Maraganore, Ph.D., board chair and former founding chief executive officer, Alnylam
 - Robert Nelsen, board member and managing director, ARCH Venture Partners
 - Issi Rozen, board observer and venture partner, GV
 - Vicki Sato, Ph.D., board member and former president, Vertex Pharmaceuticals
 - David Schenkein, M.D., board member and general partner, GV
 - Josh Wolfe, board member and co-founder and managing partner, Lux Capital
- 02.15.23 Morphoceuticals Raises \$8 million to Advance Electroceutical Approach to Regenerative Medicine (PR)
 - Morphoceuticals Inc., a biotechnology company, announced it closed an \$8 million Seed-2 funding round led by Prime Movers Lab and initial investor Juvenescence. Morphoceuticals is pioneering the use of artificial intelligence-guided electroceuticals to regenerate limbs, repair tissues, and regenerate organs, leveraging the groundbreaking work of Professors Michael Levin and David Kaplan from Tufts University.

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