
Ingenious Brain
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Monthly Life Science & Healthcare Insights

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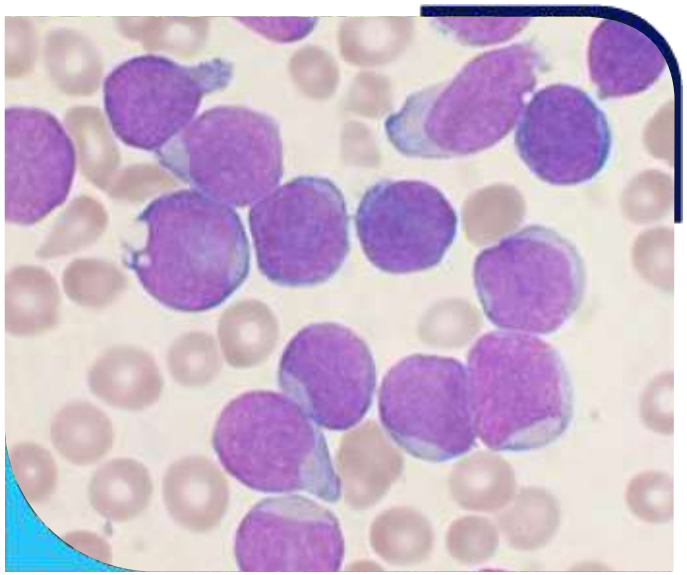
J&J Seeks FDA Nod for $6.5B Autoimmune Drug Nipocalimab

Johnson & Johnson has submitted an application to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for approval of its autoimmune drug nipocalimab, intended for the treatment of Myasthenia gravis, a chronic neuromuscular disease. Nipocalimab belongs to a new class of autoimmune drugs known as FcRn antibodies, which was the key asset in J&J's $6.5 billion acquisition of Momenta Pharmaceuticals in 2020. In addition to Myasthenia gravis, J&J is also studying nipocalimab for use in other conditions, including hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn, warm autoimmune hemolytic anemia, and Sjogren's disease.

Merck's $1.3B Bet on Curon's B-Cell Therapy

Merck recently announced an agreement with Shanghai-based Curon Biopharmaceutical, agreeing to pay $700 million upfront to acquire CN201, an investigational bispecific antibody targeting B cell-associated diseases. Curon is also eligible to receive up to $600 million in potential developmental and regulatory milestone payments, bringing the deal's total potential value to $1.3 billion if all targets are met. The transaction is expected to close in the third quarter of 2024, pending customary regulatory and antitrust approvals and other closing conditions.



Recursion and Exscientia Merge to Create AI Biotech Powerhouse

Recursion and Exscientia, two AI-enabled biotech companies, have announced a merger that will create a combined entity with $850 million in cash and ten upcoming clinical readouts over the next 18 months. Both companies went public in 2021, raising hundreds of millions of dollars by leveraging their innovative technologies to address long-standing challenges in drug development. However, since their initial public offerings, both companies have witnessed a significant drop in their share prices. In light of this, Recursion and Exscientia have decided that merging their capabilities is the best path forward.

Protect Pharmaceutical Merges with KARINCA Logistics

Protect Pharmaceutical Corp. has finalized the documentation for its merger with KARINCA Logistics. The management at Protect Pharmaceutical believes this merger will significantly enhance the company's overall operations. KARINCA Logistics brings a team of skilled professionals who will be instrumental in successfully integrating the combined businesses. Additionally, KARINCA Logistics offers an extensive operational network, including valuable routes, and opens up new sales opportunities across Europe and Asia.

Asensus Surgical Joins Forces with KARL STORZ

Asensus Surgical, Inc., a global leader in innovative digital solutions for the operating room, has announced the completion of its merger with the KARL STORZ Group. The transaction, approved by Asensus Surgical stockholders, resulted in KARL STORZ Endoscopy-America, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of KARL STORZ, acquiring all outstanding shares of Asensus Surgical for $0.35 per share in cash. Following the acquisition, Asensus Surgical is now a subsidiary of KARL STORZ.

Quest Diagnostics Expands with University Hospitals Lab Assets

Quest Diagnostics, a leading provider of diagnostic information services, and University Hospitals, one of the nation's top nonprofit health systems and academic medical centers, have announced a definitive agreement for Quest to acquire select assets of University Hospitals' outreach laboratory services business. This transaction will expand access in Ohio to Quest's innovative test menu, convenient patient access sites, and extensive health plan coverage.

The collaboration between Quest and University Hospitals aims to maintain efficient operations and high-quality service while enhancing the range of available tests and improving patient access.

UTime Moves to Acquire Monkeypox Vaccine Developer Bowen Therapeutics

UTime Limited has announced the signing of a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) with Bowen Therapeutics Inc. to acquire Bowen Therapeutics' laboratory at UMASS Medical School. This strategic move marks UTime's deeper expansion into the global vaccine market and supports the registration of related vaccines with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

A key motivation for this acquisition is the growing global demand for an effective monkeypox vaccine. Monkeypox, a viral infectious disease, has seen outbreaks in multiple regions worldwide in recent years, raising significant public health concerns. With the World Health Organization reporting cases in numerous countries, the need for effective prevention, control measures, and vaccines has become increasingly urgent.

Agile Therapeutics Acquired by Insud Pharma

Agile Therapeutics, Inc., a women's healthcare company, recently announced the completion of its acquisition by Insud Pharma, S.L., a global pharmaceutical group based in Spain with a 45-year history and a presence in over 50 countries. The acquisition was finalized by merging an indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary of Insud with Agile, resulting in Agile continuing as the surviving entity and becoming an indirect subsidiary of Insud. This merger was carried out under a definitive agreement dated June 25, 2024.

Quest Diagnostics Finalizes $1B LifeLabs Acquisition

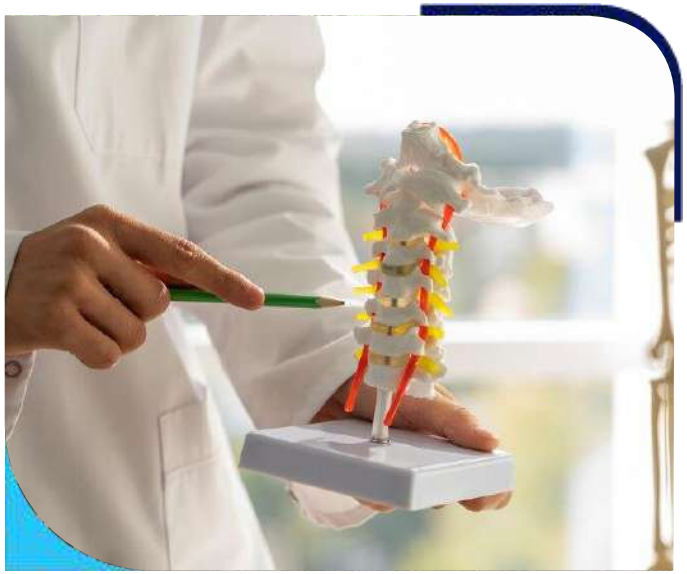
Quest Diagnostics, a leading provider of diagnostic information services, has announced the successful completion of its acquisition of LifeLabs from OMERS. The transaction, valued at around USD 1 billion, including net debt, has received all necessary approvals and is now finalized. This acquisition unites two industry leaders with a shared commitment to enhancing access to diagnostic innovation for patients across North America.

Quest Diagnostics offers a comprehensive range of specialized tests, leveraging advanced skills, science, and technology in clinical areas such as cardiometabolic health, infectious diseases, Alzheimer's disease, oncology, and genomics.

Stryker to Acquire Vertos Medical for Spinal Stenosis Treatments

Stryker, a global leader in medical technologies, has announced a definitive agreement to acquire Vertos Medical Inc., a privately held company specializing in minimally invasive treatments for chronic lower back pain caused by lumbar spinal stenosis.

Lumbar spinal stenosis, a condition affecting millions worldwide, is a leading cause of pain and disability. With an increasing demand for minimally invasive treatments, patients prioritize options that offer shorter recovery times and quicker returns to daily activities. Vertos Medical's mild® procedure provides effective pain relief and may enhance mobility without major surgery.



BioIVT Acquires ZenBio to Boost Drug Discovery and Cosmetic Research

BioIVT, a global research partner and provider of biospecimen solutions for drug and diagnostic development, has announced the acquisition of ZenBio Inc., a prominent leader in advanced cell products and services. This strategic acquisition allows BioIVT to significantly enhance its offerings by combining its expertise with ZenBio's specialized capabilities. Together, the two companies will provide an expanded portfolio that includes advanced skin-based research solutions, primary cell and exosome isolation, and a wide range of blood products. These offerings will cater to the needs of pharmaceutical and cosmetics companies, further strengthening BioIVT's position as a leading provider of innovative research tools. The financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Vantedge Medical Strengthens Portfolio with Hobson & Motzer Acquisition

Vantedge Medical, a portfolio company of Aterian Investment Partners, has announced the acquisition of Hobson & Motzer, Inc. Founded in 1912 and based in Connecticut, Hobson is a leading manufacturer of precision medical devices for the global surgical stapler market, with 100% of its sales derived from medical consumable devices. The company operates highly automated facilities with a wide range of capabilities, including progressive stamping, precision electrochemical machining, coined wire, and advanced tool and die expertise.

This acquisition marks Vantedge’s fifth medical technology add-on since 2018 and further solidifies its position as a nationwide manufacturing partner to top-tier medical OEMs. Additionally, it expands Vantedge’s portfolio of consumable medical products.

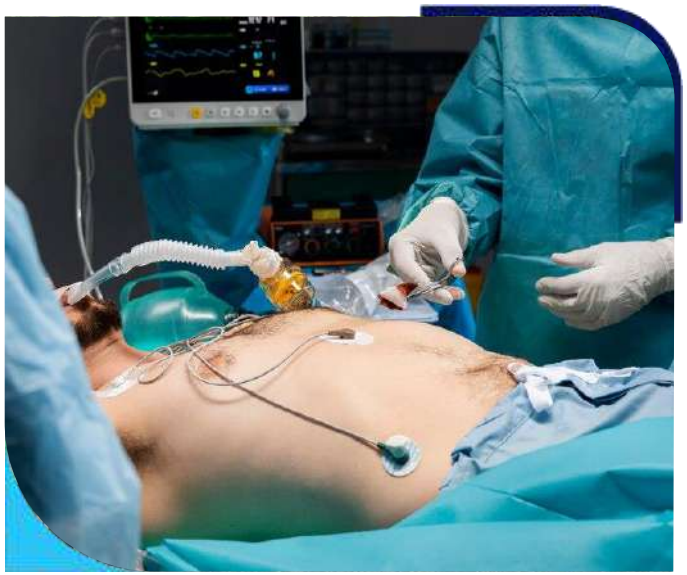
Calibre Scientific Expands with Acquisition of Industrial Glassware

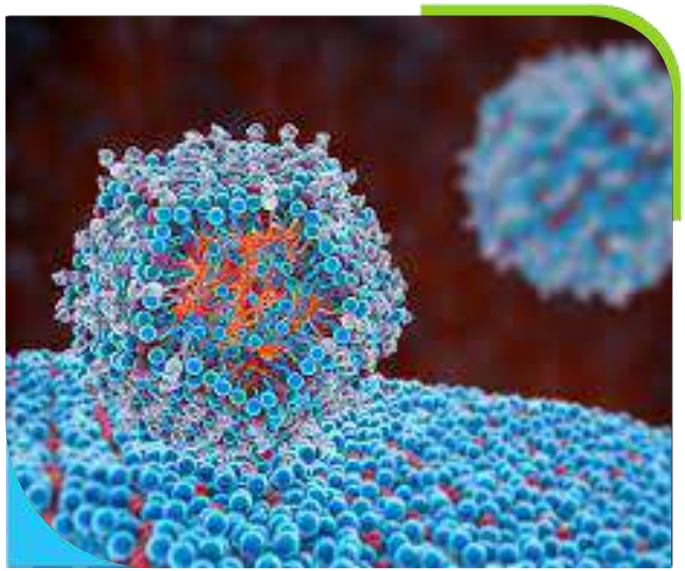
Calibre Scientific, a global provider of life science reagents, tools, instruments, and consumables for lab research, diagnostics, industrial, and biopharmaceutical sectors, has announced its acquisition of Industrial Glassware, a U.S.-based manufacturer of laboratory consumables. Industrial Glassware specializes in producing caps, glass vials, glass and plastic bottles, jars, and other related products used in the chemical, environmental laboratory, and industrial markets. This acquisition strengthens Calibre Scientific's U.S. manufacturing capabilities and expands its global portfolio of laboratory consumables.

Founded in 1988, Industrial Glassware has served the North American market for over 35 years, earning a strong reputation and fostering long-standing client relationships. The company is well-regarded for providing high-quality containers for the environmental industry and caps and closures for the chemical industry.

Lilly Finalizes Morphic Acquisition to Bolster IBD Treatment Pipeline

Eli Lilly and Company has acquired Morphic Holding, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing oral integrin therapies for serious chronic diseases. The acquisition includes MORF-057, a selective oral small molecule inhibitor of α4β7 integrin, designed to treat inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). Eli Lilly is dedicated to pursuing innovative approaches in immunologic diseases and believes that Morphic's pipeline offers significant potential to improve outcomes and expand treatment options for individuals suffering from conditions like IBD.





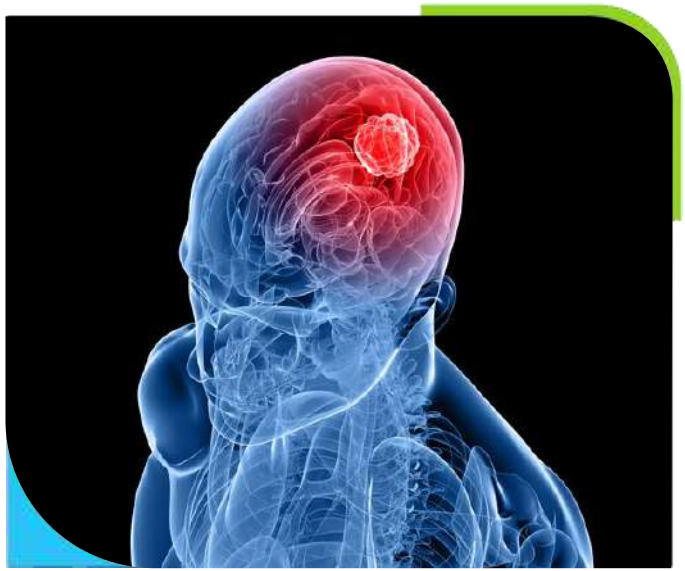
Silexion Therapeutics and Moringa Merger Completed

Silexion Therapeutics Ltd., a clinical-stage oncology-focused biotechnology company, and Moringa Acquisition Corp., a publicly traded special purpose acquisition company, have announced the completion of their business combination with Biomotion Sciences, a newly formed entity. The combined company will now operate under “Silexion Therapeutics Corp.” with its ordinary shares and warrants trading under the tickers “SLXN” and “SLXNW,” respectively.

Medicure Acquires CanAm Bioresearch’s IP for New Drug Development

Medicure Inc., a company focused on developing and commercializing pharmaceuticals and healthcare products in the U.S. market, announced the acquisition of certain intellectual property assets from CanAm Bioresearch Inc. These assets relate to discovering new chemical entities with potential therapeutic applications.

Medicure believes these new chemical entities could offer significant improvements over existing lead compounds, aligning with the company’s focus on treating targeted diseases. These entities could provide substantial value upon successful completion of non-clinical and clinical studies and obtaining regulatory approval.



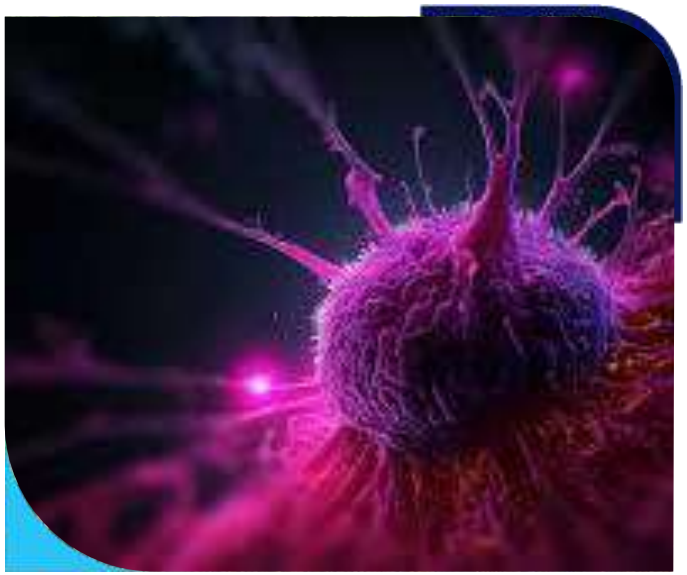
Pharmacosmos Set to Acquire G1 Therapeutics for $405M

G1 Therapeutics, Inc., a commercial-stage oncology company, and Pharmacosmos A/S, a leader in treating iron deficiency and anemia, have announced a definitive merger agreement. Under the terms, Pharmacosmos A/S, through its U.S. subsidiary Pharmacosmos Therapeutics Inc., is set to acquire all outstanding shares of G1 Therapeutics for $7.15 per share in cash, valuing the deal at approximately $405 million. The Boards of Directors of both companies have unanimously approved the transaction, which is expected to close late in the third quarter of 2024.

G1's product, COSELA, is the first and only FDA-approved treatment designed to reduce the incidence of chemotherapy-induced myelosuppression in adult patients undergoing specific regimens for extensive-stage small cell lung cancer (ES-SCLC).

Citius Pharmaceuticals Launches Citius Oncology After TenX Keane Merger

Citius Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a late-stage biopharmaceutical company focused on developing and commercializing first-in-class critical care products, has completed the previously announced merger of its oncology subsidiary with TenX Keane Acquisition, a publicly traded special purpose acquisition company. This transaction marks a significant milestone, providing Citius Pharmaceuticals with enhanced financial and strategic flexibility to advance its late-stage assets. The company now looks forward to launching LYMPHIR, pursuing future growth initiatives, and exploring additional oncology assets.



Seres Therapeutics to Sell VOWST™ Business to Nestlé Health Science

Seres Therapeutics, Inc., a leading live biotherapeutics company, has announced an agreement with Société des Produits Nestlé S.A to sell its VOWST business to Nestlé Health Science. Upon closing the deal, Seres will receive capital infusions, including an upfront payment, a prepaid milestone payment, and an equity investment. Additionally, Seres is set to receive installment payments in 2025 and potential future payments based on VOWST net sales targets.

To ensure a smooth transition, Seres will provide transition services for VOWST through the first quarter of 2025 and will offer manufacturing support until the end of 2025, with a possible limited extension by Nestlé.

Sensitech Acquires Berlinger & Co., Enhances Cold Chain Solutions

Carrier Global Corporation, through its Sensitech business, a world leader in supply chain visibility, has successfully completed the acquisition of the Monitoring Solutions business from Berlinger & Co. AG, a Swiss family-owned company known for its innovative and customized solutions for monitoring temperature-sensitive goods in the pharmaceutical, life sciences, clinical trial, and global health sectors. Sensitech, part of Carrier Global Corporation (NYSE: CARR), a global leader in intelligent climate and energy solutions, views this acquisition as a strategic milestone. It enhances Sensitech's ability to provide comprehensive and differentiated cold chain monitoring and visibility solutions for the pharma and life sciences industries.

MTD Completes Ypsomed Acquisition, Strengthens Diabetes Care Portfolio

Medical Technology and Devices (MTD) is pleased to announce the successful completion of its acquisition of Ypsomed's Pen Needles and Blood Glucose Monitoring Systems (BGM) businesses, a strategic move initially announced in late March. This acquisition represents a significant advancement in MTD's mission to provide superior diabetes and obesity care solutions on a global scale. With this acquisition, MTD strengthens its position as the clear number two in the global pen needles market. This strategic move not only solidifies our leadership in diabetes care but also reaffirms our commitment to delivering cutting-edge solutions for both self-care and professional use.

Otsuka to Acquire Jnana Therapeutics, Expanding Innovation Pipeline

Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd. (Otsuka) has entered into a definitive merger agreement with Jnana Therapeutics Inc. (Jnana), under which Otsuka will acquire Jnana, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary through its 100-percent-owned subsidiary, Otsuka America, Inc. (OAI). The acquisition is expected to close in the third quarter of fiscal 2024, pending customary closing conditions. As per the agreement, Otsuka will pay USD 800 million to Jnana's shareholders upon completion, with additional potential of up to USD 325 million in development and regulatory milestone payments.

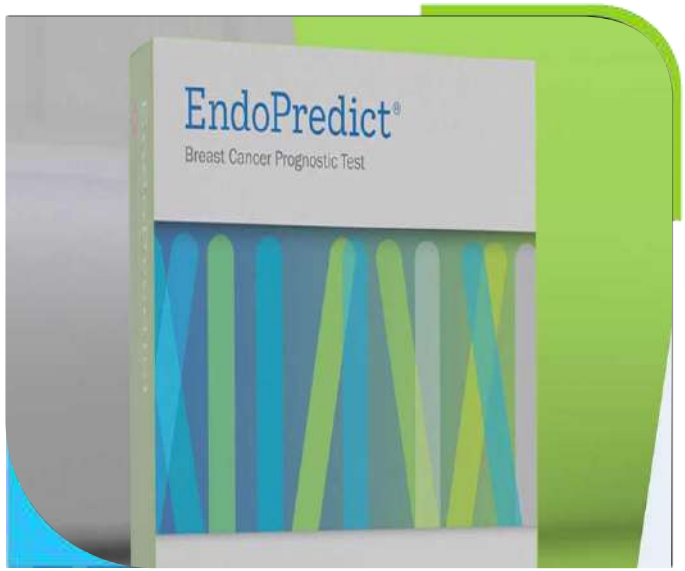
BioSig Technologies to Acquire Neuro-Kinesis Smart EP Tools

BioSig Technologies, Inc., a medical technology company known for its unparalleled accuracy and precision in intra-cardiac signal visualization for electrophysiology (EP) procedures, has announced its intent to acquire the assets of Neuro-Kinesis Corporation (NKC), a privately held medical technology company based in Los Angeles that specializes in developing smart EP tools. A non-binding letter of intent (LOI) has been executed, indicating BioSig's preliminary interest in this acquisition.

The purchase price will be paid by issuing BioSig's common stock to NKC shareholders. Additionally, at the time of closing, NKC will provide BioSig with at least $2.5 million in unrestricted cash, potentially increasing to $6 million. The proposed acquisition will undergo extensive due diligence, which may continue through the end of the year, with full details to be disclosed in BioSig's next proxy statement for a shareholder vote.

Medline Acquires Ecolab's Surgical Solutions Business

Medline, a leading manufacturer and supplier of medical supplies and solutions, has acquired Ecolab Inc.'s global surgical solutions business, including the renowned Microtek™ product lines. This strategic move marks a key milestone in Medline's growth journey and underscores its commitment to delivering innovative solutions to customers. With this acquisition, Medline looks forward to collaborating with healthcare providers and pioneering medical device companies to bring cutting-edge solutions to the surgical suite.



Eurobio Scientific Acquires EndoPredict® from Myriad Genetics

Eurobio Scientific, a leading French group in invitro specialty medical diagnostics and life sciences, has finalized its agreement with Myriad Genetics to acquire the EndoPredict® genomic test. Following the announcement on May 7, 2024, the acquisition was completed on August 1, 2024. As part of this deal, Eurobio Scientific has acquired the second-generation EndoPredict® genomic test for breast cancer and secured a license agreement to distribute the second-generation Prolaris® genomic test for prostate cancer from Myriad Genetics. These two activities generate approximately €8 million in annual revenue, though their EBITDA levels are expected to dilute the Group's short- to medium-term performance.

Verisante Proposes Reverse Takeover with SunRegen Healthcare

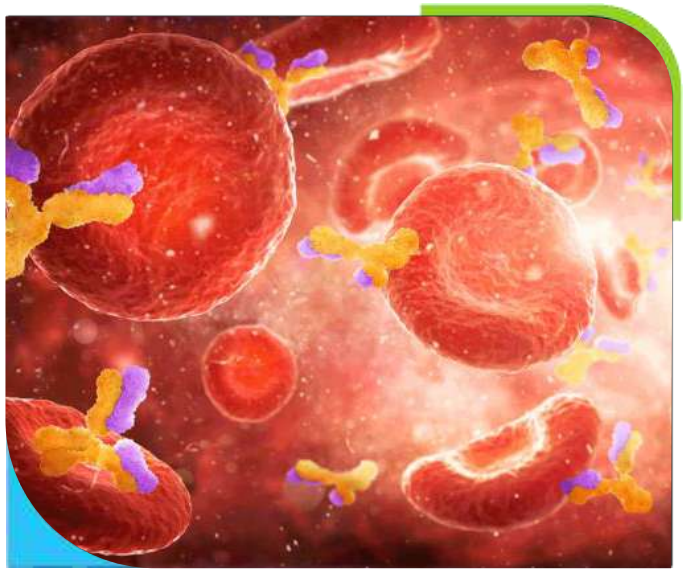
Verisante Technology, Inc. announced that it has signed a binding Letter of Intent (LOI) dated August 12, 2024, to acquire a 100% interest in SunRegen Healthcare AG, a Swiss pharmaceutical company. The acquisition will be completed through a Definitive Share Exchange Agreement, which is yet to be finalized between the parties. This proposed transaction is a Reverse Takeover (RTO) under Policy 5.2 of the TSX Venture Exchange, with the resulting issuer planning to qualify as a Tier 2 Life Sciences Issuer.

ARCA Biopharma Announces 1-for-12 Reverse Stock Split Before Oruka Merger

ARCA biopharma, Inc. announced that its Board of Directors has approved a 1-for-12 reverse stock split of the company's common stock. ARCA's common stock is expected to begin trading on a post-split basis on The Nasdaq Global Market starting September 3, 2024, under the new name Oruka Therapeutics, Inc., and with the new ticker symbol "ORKA," following the anticipated completion of its merger with Oruka Therapeutics, Inc.

Getinge AB to Acquire Paragonix Technologies for $477M

Swedish healthcare company Getinge AB has announced its plans to acquire U.S.-based Paragonix Technologies, a leading provider of organ transport products and services, for $477 million. The deal includes $253 million in cash, with up to $224 million in potential earnout payments through 2026. This acquisition will enable Getinge to expand into the rapidly growing organ preservation and transportation market. It marks a significant step for Getinge in addressing the global organ shortage by boosting transplantation volumes.

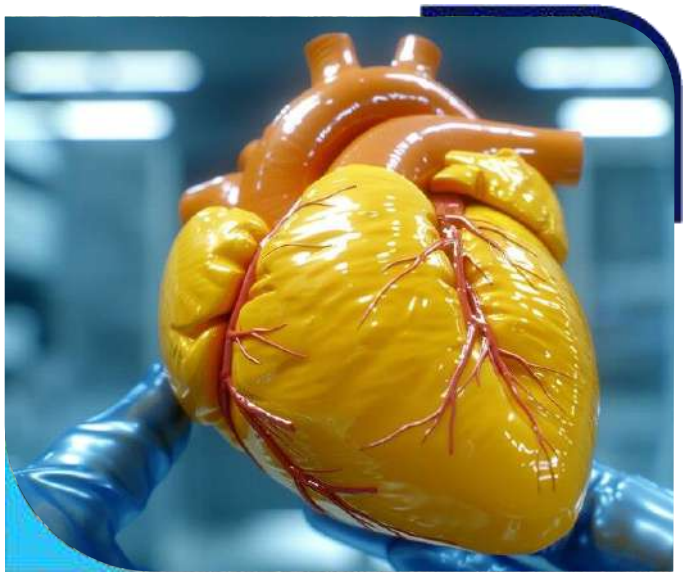


MSD to Acquire Curon's CD3 x CD19 Antibody in $1.3B Deal

Merck & Co. Inc. is set to acquire Curon Biopharmaceutical Ltd.'s bispecific antibody CN-201, which targets CD3 and CD19 for treating B-cell-associated diseases, in a deal worth up to $1.3 billion. Under the agreement, Merck (known as MSD outside of North America) will acquire full global rights to CN-201 through a subsidiary, with an upfront cash payment of $700 million. Additionally, Curon could receive up to $600 million in development and regulatory milestone payments. The deal is expected to close in the third quarter of 2024.

Novo Nordisk Acquires Embark Biotech for €470M, Expands Cardiometabolic Pipeline

Novo Nordisk has announced the acquisition of Embark Biotech in a deal valued at over €470 million, further expanding its cardiometabolic disease pipeline. This transaction grants Novo Nordisk full rights to develop and commercialize Embark Biotech's lead asset, which targets obesity and other cardiometabolic diseases. In return, Embark Biotech will receive an upfront cash payment of €15 million, potentially earning up to €456 million in development, regulatory, and commercial milestone payments.



ARCA Biopharma Updates Special Dividend Amount Before Oruka Merger

ARCA biopharma, Inc. announced an update to the final amount of the special cash dividend (the “Special Dividend”), which will now be $1.613 per share of ARCA’s common stock. The dividend is payable on August 28, 2024, to stockholders of record as of August 26, 2024. ARCA’s Board of Directors declared the Special Dividend on August 16, 2024, in connection with the merger with Oruka Therapeutics, Inc., as outlined in the Agreement and Plan of Merger and Reorganization dated April 3, 2024. The exact amount of the Special Dividend was calculated according to the terms of the Merger Agreement and is based on ARCA’s reasonable, good-faith estimate of the amount by which its net cash, determined before the Merger’s closing, will exceed $5,000,000.

Adiso Therapeutics Showcases Breakthrough in Neuroinflammation Research

Adiso Therapeutics, Inc., a fully integrated biopharmaceutical company with a pipeline of development candidates, announced the publication of a research paper in the scientific and peer-reviewed journal Brain, Behavior, and Immunity, the official journal of the Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society (PNIRS). The article, titled “LPA3 Agonist-Producing Bacillus velezensis ADS024 is Efficacious in Multiple Neuroinflammatory Disease Models” by Acton et al., highlights the effectiveness of ADS024 in various neurodegenerative disease models. The study demonstrates how ADS024 impacts these conditions by selectively agonizing the LPA3 receptor, which plays a key role in modulating inflammation and maintaining mitochondrial health.

Eli Lilly Introduces Affordable Zepbound for Weight Loss

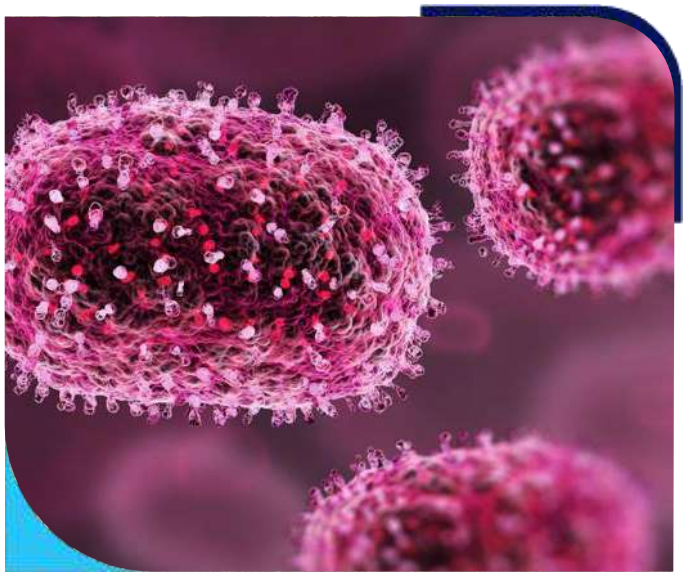
Eli Lilly has introduced a new version of its weight loss drug Zepbound at about half the usual monthly list price, aiming to reach millions of patients who lack insurance coverage, including those on Medicare. This move is intended to expand the availability of Zepbound in the U.S. as demand surges and to ensure that eligible patients can safely access the genuine treatment amid the rise of cheaper copycat versions. The company now offers 2.5-milligram and 5-milligram single-dose vials of Zepbound for $399 and $549 per month, respectively, through its direct-to-consumer website. Patients typically begin with a 2.5-milligram dose, gradually increase the amount, and later take maintenance doses to sustain weight loss.

Bavarian Nordic Seeks EU Approval for Mpox Vaccine in Teens

Danish biotech company Bavarian Nordic has submitted data to the European Union's drug regulator to extend the use of its mpox vaccine to teenagers. The expanded approval for 12 to 17-year-olds is crucial in addressing the outbreak of the latest strain of the virus, clade 1b, which particularly affects teenagers and young children. This submission follows the World Health Organization's (WHO) declaration of a public health emergency due to the escalating Mpox outbreak in Africa, with the first case of the new strain outside the continent recently confirmed in Sweden. Bavarian Nordic's Jynneos vaccine, also known as Imvanex, is currently approved only for adults aged 18 and over and is the only Mpox vaccine approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the European Medicines Agency.

Sanyou Bio Launches Comprehensive Monkeypox Product Line

Sanyou Biopharmaceuticals Co., Ltd. has launched a comprehensive product line targeting monkeypox, featuring 65 items, including natural epitope antigens, monoclonal antibodies, and overexpression cell lines. These products target key sites of the monkeypox virus that are crucial for infection and assembly. Developed using Sanyou Bio's "over-trillion innovative antibody discovery" platform, the monoclonal antibodies span multiple species, including fully human, nano, and mouse antibodies, making them valuable for therapeutic drug development, structural analysis, and bispecific research. The entire product line can also be used in diagnostic reagents and scientific research.



George Medicines Reports Positive Results for Triple-Combination BP Drug

With positive results for its three-in-one hypertension drug, London-based George Medicines is advancing toward the market in its quest to treat conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, and other cardiometabolic disorders. The hypertension candidate, GMRx2, met all primary safety and efficacy endpoints in a phase 3 study, comparing favorably to dual combinations of its components—telmisartan, amlodipine, and indapamide. George Medicines has recently submitted GMRx2 for potential FDA approval and presented the promising results at the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) annual meeting in London.

Novavax Gets FDA Nod for 2024-2025 COVID-19 Vaccine

Novavax, Inc., a global leader in protein-based vaccines using its Matrix-M™ adjuvant, announced that its COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted (2024-2025 Formula) (NVX-CoV2705), has received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for active immunization against COVID-19 in individuals aged 12 and older. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has already recommended the vaccine. Pre-filled vaccine syringes will soon be available at thousands of locations, including retail and independent pharmacies as well as regional grocery stores, following the release of vaccine batches by the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research.

Grit Biotechnology Wins FDA Clearance for GT201 Cancer Therapy

Grit Biotechnology, a leading clinical-stage cell therapy company specializing in tumor-infiltrating lymphocyte (TIL) therapies, has reached a significant milestone with its genetically engineered TIL product, GT201. After receiving investigational new drug (IND) approval in China in July 2023, GT201 has also gained IND clearance from the U.S. FDA, allowing clinical trials to begin in the United States. Developed using Grit Biotechnology's StemTexp® and StaViral® platforms, GT201 enhances T-cell survival and function by expressing a critical membrane-bound cytokine complex. This advanced TIL product outperforms traditional therapies regarding proliferation, tumor-killing efficacy, and long-term survival, with less reliance on IL-2. With approval from both the U.S. FDA and China's Center for Drug Evaluation (CDE), GT201 is set to enter clinical trials for patients with advanced solid tumors in both countries.

Sesame Launches $249 Weight Loss Program with Compounded Wegovy

Healthcare marketplace Sesame announced a new clinical weight loss program offering eligible consumers access to compounded versions of Novo Nordisk’s popular obesity drug, Wegovy, for $249 monthly. Sesame allows patients to book and pay for appointments with doctors and specialists directly through its website, bypassing intermediaries like insurers. The company has added compounded semaglutide — the active ingredient in Wegovy and Novo Nordisk’s diabetes injection Ozempic — to its platform to provide safe access to obesity and diabetes treatments, especially when many branded drugs are in short supply. Sesame already offers branded weight loss and diabetes medications on its platform, including through a partnership with Costco.

FDA Approves Updated COVID-19 Vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna

The Food and Drug Administration recently approved updated COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, with the new shots expected to be available to most Americans in the coming days amid a summer surge of the virus. These vaccines target a strain called KP.2, a descendant of the highly contagious omicron subvariant JN.1, which began spreading widely in the U.S. earlier this year. Although KP.2 was the dominant COVID strain in May, it now accounts for only about 3% of all U.S. cases, according to the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data. Despite this, Pfizer and Moderna have stated that their KP.2 vaccines can generate stronger immune responses against other circulating subvariants of JN.1, such as KP.3 and LB.1, compared to last year's vaccines, which targeted the omicron strain XBB.1.5.

Yoltech Licenses Gene Editing Therapy to Salubris for $145M

YolTech Therapeutics, a leading clinical-stage gene editing company focused on delivering lifelong cures, has announced an exclusive licensing agreement with Salubris Pharmaceuticals. This partnership grants Salubris the rights to develop and commercialize YolTech's proprietary PCSK9-targeting base editing therapeutic, YOLT-101, in Mainland China. The deal is valued at $145 million, and YolTech will also receive tiered royalties based on net sales.

Hutchmed Withdraws Stomach Cancer Treatment Filing in China

Hutchmed, the original developer of Takeda's Fruzaqla, has decided to halt its pursuit of approval for the VEGFR inhibitor in treating stomach cancer in China. Following an internal review and discussions with local authorities, Hutchmed has voluntarily withdrawn its application for fruquinitib combined with chemotherapy as a second-line treatment for advanced gastric or gastroesophageal junction (GEJ) adenocarcinoma. The company, which co-markets the drug with Eli Lilly under the brand name Elunate in China, determined that approval is unlikely at this time. Takeda retains the ex-China rights.

Psyence Biomed Secures $25M Equity Line with White Lion Capital

Psyence Biomedical Ltd. recently announced that its registration statement for a $25 million equity line of credit (ELOC) with White Lion Capital, LLC has been approved by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on August 28, 2024. This approval allows Psyence Biomed to access funding over the next 24 months by selling up to $25 million in shares to White Lion, contingent on meeting specific conditions. The arrangement provides the company with flexible financial support to advance its biomedical initiatives. This development marks a significant milestone in Psyence Biomed's growth strategy, enabling it to fund ongoing and future projects effectively.

HOPE Therapeutics Secures $30M for Psychiatry Clinic Expansion

HOPE Therapeutics, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NRx Pharmaceuticals, has announced the signing of a non-binding Term Sheet for non-dilutive, nonconvertible debt funding to support the acquisition of its first interventional psychiatry clinics, including ketamine clinic acquisitions. The company has also signed a Term Sheet to acquire five currently operational clinics in the Western United States. Additionally, HOPE Therapeutics has received non-binding lending commitments that it believes will enable the assembly or acquisition of a network of clinics with revenues exceeding $100 million. The company plans potential operations in the United States, France, and the United Kingdom.

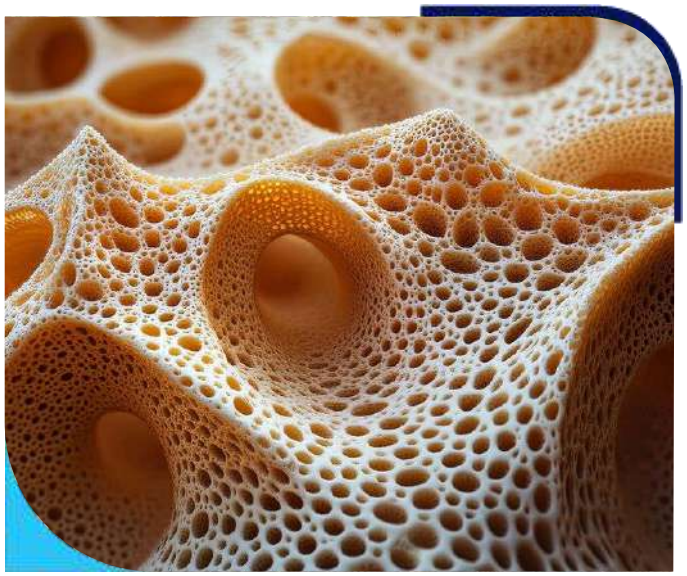
Sapio Sciences Partners with CREO for Lab Innovation

Sapio Sciences has entered into a strategic partnership with CREO, a leading consultancy for innovative companies focused on improving human health. Together, they will deliver comprehensive, end-to-end laboratory information management solutions.

This collaboration leverages CREO's expertise in digital transformation, validation, and operational management alongside Sapio Sciences' configurable lab informatics platform, including LIMS, Electronic Lab Notebook, and Scientific Data Solutions.

Ingenza Collaborates with Cellugy on Biofabricated Cellulose

Industrial biotech specialist Ingenza unveiled its collaboration with Cellugy to advance the development of its innovative platform for producing biofabricated cellulose. This technology aims to offer a sustainable alternative to fossil-based petrochemicals in various industrial applications, beginning with personal care products. The collaboration will accelerate the understanding and optimization of bacterial cellulose production, paving the way for broader adoption in the industry.



QIAGEN and AstraZeneca Expand Partnership into Precision Medicine

QIAGEN has announced the expansion of its Master Collaboration Agreement with AstraZeneca to develop and commercialize companion diagnostics (CDx) for AstraZeneca's upcoming therapies aimed at treating chronic diseases. As part of this agreement, QIAGEN will develop and validate a genotyping assay using its QIAstat-Dx syndromic testing platform. This test will allow specialty care providers to perform genotyping during routine clinical examinations, facilitating rapid decision-making regarding patients' suitability for AstraZeneca's genomically targeted treatments.

This new agreement extends the collaboration with AstraZeneca beyond oncology to include complex chronic diseases. QIAGEN's QIAstat-Dx platform will enable healthcare providers to quickly determine patients' eligibility for investigational precision medicines.

Stay tuned for more such updates in the coming months!

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