SciLeads

BioPharma

Latest Updates

Here are this week's BioPharma updates - **May 5th, 2025.**

Funding

- Moderna (MA, USA) raised $176M in funding to expedite the creation of a pandemic influenza vaccine to combat potential bird flu infections in humans, with ongoing development and late-stage trials planned.
- EnChannel Medical (Guangzhou, China) raised $82.2M in Series B funding to accelerate product development and advance clinical registration trials in China and internationally.
- Etiome (MA, USA) raised $50M in Series A funding to advance its Temporal Biodynamics™ platform for developing preemptive medicines targeting chronic and progressive diseases.
- deepull (Barcelona, Spain) raised $50M in Series C funding to finalize clinical validation and expedite the regulatory approval process of its UllCORE diagnostic system.
- Zucara Therapeutics (Toronto, Canada) raised $25M in Series B funding to complete its Phase 2a clinical trial and develop a once-weekly version of ZT-01 for preventing hypoglycemia in people with diabetes.
- Craif (Tokyo, Japan) raised $22M in Series C funding to expand its R&D and testing services in Japan and the U.S., aiming for FDA approval and insurance reimbursement.
- Transverse Medical (CO, USA) raised $10M in Series B2 funding to support the clinical validation of its POINT-GUARD™ Cerebral Embolic Protection device for stroke prevention during TAVR procedures.
- Azalea Vision (Ghent, Belgium) raised $9M in Series A funding to support the execution of its First-in-human clinical trial and advance its smart lens platform for intelligent ocular health.
- Gestalt (WA, USA) raised $7.5M in Series A funding to expand its AI-powered digital pathology platform, PathFlow®, to enhance diagnostic accuracy and efficiency in healthcare and research organisations.
- Epicore Biosystems (MA, USA) raised $6M in Series B funding to accelerate global expansion and scale next-generation sweat-sensing technologies.
- VitriVax (CO, USA) received a $5M CEPI grant to develop the Atomic Layering Thermostable Antigen and Adjuvant (ALTA®) technology further using Rabies as a vaccine target.

- Armata Pharmaceuticals (CA, USA) raised $4.65M in non-dilutive funding to support Phase 2a study closeout activities and preparation for an end-of-phase 2 meeting with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
- Myosin Therapeutics (FL, USA) received a $3M National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) grant to support the initiation of a Phase 1 clinical trial for MT-110 as a treatment for methamphetamine use disorder.
- Kardi AI (Olomouc, Czech Republic) raised $1.1M in funding to support international expansion and clinical validation of its AI-powered chest strap for detecting heart arrhythmias.
- Basic Genomics (Stockholm, Sweden) raised $1.1M in funding to advance RNA characterization technologies and expand product development and commercialization.
- Fusion Antibodies (Belfast, United Kingdom) received a $680K UKRI and InvestNI grant to develop a humanised therapeutic antibody to combat treatment-resistant cancers.
- Vakona (Umeå, Sweden) raised an undisclosed amount in funding to complete the process development of its innovative active substance as it moves toward the clinical phase.
- Akita Biosciences (OH, USA) received a Flu Lab grant of an undisclosed amount to evaluate the feasibility, acceptability, and safety of Profi Nasal Spray in U.S. healthcare workers.
- Addex Therapeutics (Geneva, Switzerland) received a Sinntaxis AB grant of an undisclosed amount to evaluate its dipraglurant for the treatment of brain injury recovery, including stroke and traumatic brain injury.

Emerging

- Avidicure (Amsterdam, Netherlands) launched with $50M in Seed funding to advance the development of its dual agonistic, multifunctional antibody platform for oncology.
- SynthioLabs (CA, USA) emerged from stealth to streamline pharmaceutical operations by using AI-driven tools to accelerate reviews, ensure compliance, and boost engagement across the product lifecycle.
- Stately Bio (CA, USA) launched with $12M in seed funding to develop the next generation of life-saving regenerative medicines with the world's most advanced ML cell imaging platform.
- Cycuria Therapeutics (Graz, Austria) launched with a grant from FFG and AWS to advance the development of its CUR-101 protein-based targeted therapy for acute myeloid leukaemia (AML).

Post IPO Equity

- TriSalus Life Sciences (CO, USA) raised $22M through a private placement to fund working capital needs, support general corporate operations, and back initiatives to simplify its capital structure through a preferred stock exchange offer.

- CND Life Sciences (AZ, USA) raised $13.5M to expand access to its Syn-One Test®, support clinical collaborations, and advance neurodiagnostic innovations targeting synuclein-related disorders like Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies.

Post IPO Debt

- Biohaven (CT, USA) raised $250M through a senior secured note purchase agreement to support clinical trials, commercialization efforts for troriluzole, and advancement of its broader therapeutic pipeline.

Mergers and Acquisitions

- Novartis (Basel, Switzerland) to acquire Regulus Therapeutics (CA, USA) for $800M to advance the development and commercialization of farabursen for ADPKD treatment.
- Concentra Biosciences (MA, USA) to acquire Kronos Bio (MA, USA) for $800M to advance its small molecule therapeutics for cancer and autoimmune diseases.
- Merck KGaA (Darmstadt, Germany) to acquire SpringWorks Therapeutics (CT, USA) to expand its portfolio in rare diseases and cancer treatments.
- Healthy.io (Tel Aviv, Israel) to acquire Labrador Health (Tel Aviv, Israel) to expand its portfolio of quantitative home-based kidney testing technologies.
- Jade Biosciences (MA, USA) to acquire Aerovate Therapeutics (MA, USA) to advance its portfolio of novel therapies for autoimmune diseases, with lead candidate JADE-001 expected to enter the clinic in 2025.
- AlphaRose Therapeutics (TX, USA) to acquire Alpha Anomeric (Paris, France) to integrate its novel oligonucleotide chemistry platform (abcDNA) into AlphaRose's development programs for neurogenetic developmental diseases.

Partnerships

- Dimerix (Melbourne, Australia) and Amicus Therapeutics (NJ, USA) announced a ~$590M exclusive U.S. license agreement for DMX-200, a Phase 3 candidate for FSGS and other indications
- Prilenia (MA, USA) and Ferrer (Barcelona, Spain) announced a $540M collaboration and license agreement for the commercialization and further development of pridopidine in Europe and select markets, including the treatment of Huntington's disease and ALS.
- Sandoz (Basel, Switzerland) and Henlius (Shanghai, China) announced a $301M global collaboration to commercialize a biosimilar of ipilimumab in major markets including the US, EU, Japan, Canada, and Australia for the treatment of multiple cancers.

- SOHM, Inc. (CA, USA) announced a $6M collaboration and license agreement with an undisclosed partner to advance the development of micro-dosed CAR-T therapies using SOHM's proprietary ABBIE genome editing system, aiming to accelerate clinical applications in cancer treatment.
- LIfT BioSciences (London, United Kingdom) and University of Galway (Galway, Ireland), along with Hooke Bio (Shannon, Ireland), announced a collaboration to advance clinical trials for Immunomodulatory Alpha Neutrophils (IMANs), a first-in-class cell therapy designed to overcome treatment resistance in solid tumors, with trials set to begin in 2026.
- HeartcoR Solutions (IL, USA) and Wellysis (South Korea) announced partnership for exclusive rights to use the FDA-cleared S-Patch ECG wearable in global cardiac safety clinical trials, aiming to enhance remote monitoring, trial compliance, and data accuracy.
- Complete Genomics (CA, USA) and Velsera (MA, USA) announced partnership to deliver an end-to-end genetic testing solution combining DNBSEQ™ sequencing technology with Velsera's Clinical Genomics Workspace, aiming to streamline clinical oncology workflows from sequencing to actionable insights.
- AccuStem (London, United Kingdom) and EmeritusDX (CA, USA) announced an expanded strategic partnership for the commercialization of the MSC test for lung cancer screening in the US, aiming for a 2026 clinical launch to improve lung nodule risk stratification and patient outcomes.
- NeoGenomics (FL, USA) and Ultima Genomics (CA, USA) announced a collaboration and technology agreement for the use of Ultima's UG 100™ sequencing platform and ppmSeq™ technology to advance NeoGenomics' oncology diagnostics, including applications in liquid biopsy and minimal residual disease (MRD).
- FYR Bio (MT, USA) and Mayo Clinic (MN, USA) announced a collaboration to advance blood-based biomarkers for Parkinson's disease using FYR's EV-Omics platform, aiming to improve disease tracking, patient outcomes, and clinical trial precision.
- Mainz Biomed (Mainz, Germany) and EDX Medical (Cambridge, United Kingdom) announced a technology partnership to expand access to Mainz's molecular cancer diagnostic technology in the UK, aiming to enhance early cancer detection and personalized treatment.
- Scipher Medicine (MA, USA) and InnoSIGN (Eindhoven, Netherlands) announced a partnership to combine Scipher's immune disease RNAseq data with InnoSIGN's pathway analysis platform to identify biomarkers and advance precision therapies.
- SOPHiA GENETICS (Rolle, Switzerland) and AstraZeneca (Cambridge, United Kingdom) expanded their collaboration to deploy MSK-ACCESS® powered with SOPHiA DDM™ to 30 clinical institutions globally in 2025, advancing real-time liquid biopsy testing for cancer monitoring and supporting AstraZeneca's real-world evidence initiatives.

- RoosterBio Inc. (MD, USA) and Thermo Fisher Scientific (MA, USA) announced a collaboration to accelerate the development and GMP manufacturing of hMSC and exosome therapies, enabling biopharma companies to streamline production of clinical trial materials for degenerative disease treatments.
- Curi Bio (WA, USA) and Cook MyoSite (PA, USA) announced a strategic partnership to develop 3D human tissue models for accelerating drug discovery in muscle-related diseases, obesity, diabetes, and other metabolic disorders.
- Er-Kim (Istanbul, Turkey) and Puma Biotechnology (CA, USA) signed an agreement for Er-Kim to commercialize NERLYNX® (neratinib) in select Eastern European and Central Asian countries, including Armenia, Russia, and Kazakhstan, to treat HER2-positive breast cancer.
- Addex Therapeutics (Switzerland) and Sinntaxis AB (Lund, Sweden) announced a collaboration agreement to license mGlu5 inhibitors, including Addex's dipraglurant, for brain injury recovery.
- DCx Biotherapeutics Corporation (Vancouver, Canada) and Repare Therapeutics (Montreal, Canada) announced a multi-component deal including platform and asset licensing, facility transfer, and team integration to advance next-gen antibody drug conjugates for genetically-defined cancers.
- Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation (NY, USA) and Siemens Healthineers (Germany) announced partnership to license its SpeechDx dataset - launched in 2023 to develop speech-based biomarkers for early Alzheimer's detection and monitoring.
- Haleon (Weybridge, United Kingdom) and Brightseed (CA, USA) announced partnership to leverage its AI platform Forager® for discovering plant-based bioactive compounds, accelerating the development of nature-inspired, science-backed consumer health solutions.

Registered Direct Offering (RDO)

- Alpha Tau Medical (Jerusalem, Israel) raised $36.9M through a registered direct offering to support general corporate purposes, including research and development, expanding manufacturing capabilities, and potential commercialization of its product candidates.

Closures and Layoffs

- Ono Pharmaceutical (MA, USA) is laying off 83 employees at its U.S. subsidiary effective June 30 to optimize its operations, as per a Worker Retraining Notification Act (WARN) notice.
- Spruce Biosciences (CA, USA) is laying off 55% of its workforce to prioritize the development of its tralesinidase alfa therapy for Sanfilippo syndrome type B (MPS IIIB), with layoffs effective immediately.
- Octagon Therapeutics (RI, USA) is winding down operations due to the deprioritization of a lead B cell immunomodulator program and unresolved biology questions. The closure is expected to affect around a dozen employees.

- Bloomsbury Genetic Therapies (London, United Kingdom) is closing down its operations due to difficult funding conditions despite promising clinical progress and multiple orphan drug designations.