Syncona

Syncona Update

October 2021

Syncona

Building the next generation of healthcare companies

Key Announcements

Cambridge Epigenetix Raises $88 Million Series D Financing to Advance Best-in-Class DNA Sequencing Technology Platform
02.11.21

Cambridge Epigenetix (CEGX), a life sciences tools and technology company revolutionizing genome sequencing, today announced the signing of an $88 million Series D financing, bringing the total funds raised to date to $146 million. Temasek led the Series D round with participation from new investors including Third Point and existing investors such as GV, New Science Ventures, Ahren Innovation Capital and Sequoia. The financing round has resulted in an uplift to Syncona's holding value in the business.

Key Media Coverage

Get a boost from lucrative health technology
Investors Chronicle 26.10.21

James Norrington of Investors Chronicle reports that healthcare technology is an area of the economy with important structural drivers. When discussing specialist funds that have emerged to target healthcare, Norrington evaluates the investment potential presented by trusts focusing mainly on biotech and refers to Syncona as one of the top specialist investment trusts. He presents Syncona as a good option for investors looking to venture into biotech.

Stocks to buy after the Budget
The Telegraph 27.10.21

The Telegraph's Money team highlighted Syncona as a stock to buy after the Budget announcement, pinning the company as a UK stock that could gain from the reform.

Achilles Therapeutics

Developing novel cancer immunotherapies targeting clonal neoantigens

Key Announcements

Achilles Therapeutics to Present at Upcoming Scientific Congresses
01.10.21

Achilles announced it was to present at the following conferences:

- 2021 European Society for Gene and Cell Therapy (ESGCT) Congress – 22 October 2021
- Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC) 36th Annual Meeting – 12 November (abstracts available 9 November)

Achilles Therapeutics to Join the Northern Alliance Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre Consortium
12.10.21

Achilles announced that it has joined the Northern Alliance for Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre (NA-ATTC) consortium. The NA-ATTC consortium is funded by Innovate UK, the government's innovation agency, and is one of only three Advanced Therapy Treatment Centres in the UK.

Achilles Therapeutics Presents Data at the 2021 European Society for Gene and Cell Therapy (ESGCT) Congress Demonstrating its Proprietary Manufacturing Process Can Generate Potent, Personalized Anti-Cancer Cell Therapy Candidates in Multiple Solid Tumor Types
22.10.21

Achilles released data showing that Achilles' proprietary VELOS™ manufacturing process is able to extract tumor infiltrating lymphocytes (TIL) and generate potent clonal neoantigen-reactive T cells (cNeT) across a range of solid tumor types.

Key Media Coverage

Achilles Therapeutics joins Northern Alliance for Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre
European Pharmaceutical Manufacturer 14.10.21

European Pharmaceutical Manufacturer reports that Achilles Therapeutics is joining the Northern Alliance for Advanced Therapies Treatment Centre (NA-ATTC) consortium, expanding the centre's cell therapy expertise. Achilles will utilise its expertise in supply chain and operations to help improve cell therapy delivery to patients.

Other news to note for Oct. 22, 2021
BioWorld 22.10.21

BioWorld reported that Achilles Therapeutics delivered an oral presentation at the 2021 European Society for Gene and Cell Therapy Congress, showing that its Velos manufacturing process is able to extract tumour infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) and generate potent clonal neoantigen-reactive T cells across a variety of solid tumours.

Autolus Therapeutics

Developing next generation programmed T cell therapies for the treatment of cancer

Key Announcements

Autolus Therapeutics Reports Third Quarter 2021 Financial Results and Operational Progress
03.11.21

Autolus announced its third quarter results for its financial year 2021, announcing that the company continues to make good progress in the Phase II portion of its lead FELIX study and remains on track to deliver primary endpoint data in the middle of 2022.

Key Media Coverage

Kite claims a first for CAR-T Tecartus in adult leukaemia
Pharmaphorum 04.10.21

Phil Taylor of Pharmaphorum covered the FDA's approval of Kite Pharma's Tecartus as a treatment for adults with relapsed or refractory B-cell precursor acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL), suggesting that it makes CAR-T therapy an option for a new group of patients. The article reports that GlobalData predicts the ALL market will grow from $1.46bn in 2019 to $2.26bn in 2029 and Autolus' AUTO1 is suggested to be one of the most important launches for this market.

FDA stops all Allogene's CAR-T trials over safety scare, raising questions about future of gene editing
FierceBiotech 08.10.21

Nick Paul Taylor of FierceBiotech reported on the FDA's clinical hold of all Allogene's AlloCAR T trials. As a result, shares in Autolus rose by 7% as the news from its competitor led investors to re-evaluate its autologous CAR-Ts vs its allogeneic rival.

Clade Therapeutics

Established with the aim of discovering and delivering scalable next generation induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC)-derived medicines

Key Announcements

Clade Therapeutics Raises $87 Million Series A Financing to Realize the Potential of Cell Therapy
03.11.21

Announcement of $87 million Series A financing led by Syncona Ltd. with participation from LifeSci Venture Partners, Emerson Collective and Bristol Myers Squibb. Proceeds from this financing will support the development of the Company's proprietary platform, which enables the immune cloaking of induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) and the differentiation of cloaked stem cells into therapeutic cells.

Syncona have committed $30m (£21.7m) to Clade, and will have a 22.6% stake in the business once all current commitments are invested.

Key Media Coverage

Bristol Myers Squibb-backed Clade nabs a meaty $87M series A for cell therapy 2.0
FierceBiotech 03.11.21

FierceBiotech's Ben Adams covered Clade Therapeutics' Series A financing, heralding the arrival of cell therapy 2.0. Syncona co-led the $87m funding for the development of Clade's off-the-shelf, next generation stem-cell-based medicines.

Harvard CRISPR pioneer Chad Cowan launches $87M stem cell play
Boston Business Journal 03.11.21

Rowan Walrath of the Boston Business Journal reports that, through Clade Therapeutics, Harvard Stem Cell Institute professor Chad Cowan is developing a method of cloaking engineered stem cells. Cowan previously helped to launch CRISPR Therapeutics as well Sana Biotechnology, and he thinks that Syncona's new portfolio company can bring a lead drug into the clinic in two years' time.

Freeline Therapeutics

Focused on developing curative gene therapies for chronic systemic diseases

Key Media Coverage

Fabry disease's five-year prospects look up
BioCentury 07.10.21

Selina Koch of BioCentury writes that despite two decades passing since the first enzyme replacement therapies became available for Fabry disease, only one treatment with a different mechanism has made it to the market. However, the next five years could see more innovation and progress than ever. Comparing the profiles of up-and-coming therapies for Fabry disease, Koch refers to Freeline's engineered AAVS3 vector which could achieve higher expression levels with lower doses than other vectors.

OMass Therapeutics

Using novel biochemistry techniques, native mass spectrometry and custom chemistry to deliver novel medicines against highly validated but inadequately drugged targets, with a focus on immunological and rare diseases

Key Announcements

OMass Unveils Rich Drug Discovery Pipeline Targeting Intractable or Inadequately Drugged Membrane and Complex-bound Proteins

OMass unveiled its pipeline of five novel, differentiated small molecule drug programs, targeting intractable or inadequately drugged membrane and complex-bound protein targets such as GPCRs (G-protein-coupled receptors), solute carriers and intracellular protein complexes. Its lead programme, MC2, is targeting rare endocrine disorders.

SwanBio Therapeutics

Developing leading-edge medicines to deliver dramatic clinical efficacy for the treatment of neurological diseases

Key Media Coverage

Other news to note for Oct. 20, 2021
BioWorld 20.10.21

BioWorld's daily newsletter summarises SwanBio Therapeutics' preclinical results of its AAV-based gene therapy for the treatment of adrenomyeloneuropathy, SBT101. The data was reported at the European Society for Gene and Cell Therapy 2021 Virtual Congress.

ESGCT preclinical roundup; plus Generation, Pionyr and more
BioCentury 23.10.21

Claire Quang and Danielle Golovin of BioCentury provided an overview of the preclinical data from companies presenting at the European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy 2021 Virtual Congress. They report that the conference featured preclinical data from a selection of AAV-delivered gene replacement therapies, including SwanBio Therapeutics' SBT101. SwanBio reported that SBT101 maintained increases in ABCD1 protein expression at 24 weeks in a mouse model of adrenomyeloneuropathy.

Quell Therapeutics

Developing engineered T regulatory (T-reg) cell therapies

Key Announcements

Quell Therapeutics Presents New Data Demonstrating the Ability of its Proprietary Phenotype Lock Technology to Enhance the Safety, Stability and Efficacy of Engineered Treg Therapies
19.10.21

Quell Therapeutics presented preclinical data demonstrating that Treg cells engineered to express constitutively high levels of FOXP3, considered the master transcription factor of Tregs, demonstrate a more stable Treg phenotype in vitro and in vivo, and are prevented from converting to a pathogenic effector-like cell phenotype.

Quell Therapeutics Granted CTA Approval to Begin First Clinical Trial with a Multi-modular Engineered Treg Cell Therapy
27.10.21

Quell announced that its Clinical Trial Application (CTA) for the first clinical trial of its lead Treg cell therapy candidate QEL-001 had been approved by the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

Key Media Coverage

Other news to note for Oct. 19, 2021
BioWorld 19.10.21

BioWorld reports in its newsletter that Quell Therapeutics presented preclinical data on Treg cells engineered to express constitutively high levels of FOXP3 at the European Society of Gene and Cell Therapy Virtual Congress 2021. Quell plans to initiate the phase I/II LIBERATE study of CAR-Treg cell therapy QEL-001 in Q1 2022.