

# **New Jersey Bioscience Center In The News**

#### **Couragene Receives \$40M**

Incubator at North Brunswick resident Couragene was recently awarded \$40M from NIH's Somatic Cell Genome Editing (SCGE) program. Couragene is a genetic medicine company using novel delivery platforms. CEO and cofounder Dr. Amy Liao is a co-founder and former CEO of Genewiz.

#### Adlai Nortye Competes IPO! \$100M of Great News!!

New Jersey Bioscience Center Resident Adlai Nortye expects to <u>receive gross proceeds of \$97.5M</u>, including \$57.5M from the IPO and \$40M from a private placement. <u>Adlai Nortye</u> is focused on the discovery and development of innovative cancer therapies. In addition, the company recently announced competition of Patient Enrollment in a <u>Global Phase III Clinical Trial</u>.

### **BioAegis Therapeutics Receives \$20M**

<u>BioAegis Therapeutics Inc.</u>, a clinical-stage company developing therapies for infectious, inflammatory, and degenerative diseases, recently announced a <u>\$20M BARDA contract</u> to advance gelsolin as a treatment for patients with acute respiratory distress syndrome.

#### Skunkworx Bio Awarded \$400,000 NCI STTR

Congratulations to <u>Skunkworx Bio</u> for their recent <u>STTR Phase I grant</u>. The grant was awarded for a research partnership with Weill Cornell Medical Center. Skunkworx Bio is a resident of the Incubator at North Brunswick.

#### **Zena Therapeutics Awarded \$313,000 NIH SBIR**

Zena Therapeutics is a startup biotech company focused on developing new drugs to treat alcohol and substance abuse, as well as anxiety disorders. The Incubator at North Brunswick resident and Rutgers spin-out recently earned an <u>STTR award</u> from the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) to address complications of anxiety associated with the treatment of substance use disorder (SUD).

## **Lactiga Wins ILSE Research Competition**

Congratulations to Incubator at North Brunswick resident Lactiga for their 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the inaugural <u>ILSE</u> <u>Translational Research Competition</u>. Lactiga is a bio-therapeutics company developing novel biologics to treat and prevent infections by unlocking the full therapeutic value of human breastmilk to create the next generation of anti-infectives.

#### Ascendia Named to Inc. 5000 ... Again

New Jersey Bioscience Center resident and Incubator at North Brunswick graduate Ascendia Pharmaceuticals recently announced that it had been named to the <u>2023 Inc. 5000</u>. Ascendia ranked #1998 in the 2023 list based upon its 280% 3-year revenue growth.

#### Fidelis Animal Health Receives Label Expansion From FDA

New Jersey Bioscience Center resident and Incubator at North Brunswick graduate Fidelis Animal Health recently received the FDA notification. "This label expansion is important. It is the first planned expansion for Ethiqa XR, and we look forward to future indications for additional species," said Michael Wells, Chairman and CEO "With our product, there's less need for animal handling, resulting in less stress, which significantly benefits the welfare of these animals."

#### Founder's Profile - Dr. John Pena, Co-Founder & CEO, Sonder RX

Incubator at North Brunswick resident <u>Sonder RX</u> is focused on using advanced imaging technology and new screening methods to develop diagnostic and therapeutic solutions for oncology and ophthalmic diseases. The company is a spin-off from Weill Cornell Medical School. Dr. John Pena is a former Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Weill Cornell and Principal Investigator at Dyson Vision Research Institute. Dr. Pena is a physician-scientist, with an M.D. degree from Weill Cornell Medical College, a Ph.D. degree from The Rockefeller University, and residency training in ophthalmology completed at WCM and New York-Presbyterian Hospital. He trained with Thomas Tuschl, Professor at Rockefeller University, and HHMI for his Ph.D., where his team developed an innovative method to image small RNAs in biopsy tissue sections.

# **New Jersey Bioscience Center Alumni In The News**

#### PDS Biotech Announces Positive Results From NCI Led Phase 2 Trial

<u>PDS Biotech is a clinical-stage</u> immunotherapy company developing a growing pipeline of targeted cancer and infectious disease immunotherapies. PDS is a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick.

#### <u>Ayala Receives Orphan Drug Designation / Merges With Biosight</u>

Ayala Pharmaceuticals (ADXS), a clinical-stage oncology company, recently received <u>FDA Orphan Drug</u> <u>Designation</u> for AL102, for the treatment of desmoid tumors (DT). Advaxis, a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick, <u>merged with</u> Ayala in January of 2023. In October of 2023, Ayala merged with Biosight, Ltd.

#### Acasti Pharma Announces Phase 3 / \$7.5M Private Placement

The company <u>recently announced enrollment</u> in its Phase 3 clinical trial for GTX-104. Grace Therapeutics, a graduate of the Incubator at North Brunswick, merged with Acasti Pharma in 2021.

# **Link to Life Sciences Ecosystem News in New Jersey**

#### **Incubator Labs at the New Jersey Bioscience Center Research Park**

<u>The Incubator at North Brunswick</u> will have a small lab available in the future. <u>Email</u> or call New Jersey Bioscience Center Director Lenzie Harcum (732-839-1880) with any questions or to request a tour.

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<u>New Jersey Bioscience Center,</u> a 300,000 SF, 50 acre research park that includes the <u>Incubator at North Brunswick</u>, with 27 private wet labs and the multi-tenant <u>Step-Out Labs at North Brunswick</u> for growing biotech companies. Larger life sciences space ranging from 5000 – 32,000 SF.





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