

The Berke Report Collaboration and Licensing Updates: for the Fourth Week of April 2023

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- 04.28.23 Company founded by ex-Novartis execs inks \$477M in-license deal (endpts)
 - Aditum Bio, the biotech fund launched by two former Novartis execs, announced that it formed a new company focused on developing treatments for immunological disorders, including an early-stage therapy it's licensing from Daewoong Pharmaceutical.
- 04.27.23 Tayros Therapeutics and OpenBench Expand Strategic Collaboration for Small Molecule Drug Discovery (PR)
- Precision oncology platform company Tavros Therapeutics and screening platform OpenBench have announced an expansion of their existing collaboration agreement to discover small molecule modulators of up to five oncology targets across an initial 18-month term. The financial terms of the agreement were not disclosed.
- 04.27.23 MD Anderson, Flagship startup partner to design and test cancer drugs made with generative AI (endpts)
- Generate Biomedicines, a startup founded by the life science investment company Flagship Pioneering, has partnered with the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center to develop protein therapies made from generative AI, the artificial intelligence technique that's sweeping the web with text generators such as ChatGPT and image generators like DALL-E. The collaboration, announced Thursday morning, will span the gamut of drug discovery and development. The pair will initially identify up to five targets in advanced cancers, including lung cancer, to design drugs for Generate's computational and wet labs in Somerville, MA. Generate was founded in 2018 to devise new ways to make drugs on computers. The startup has since raised at least \$470 million from private investors and a pharma partner that believes machine learning can help make better drugs more quickly.
- 04.25.23 Vertex buys in on Stablix's protein stabilization approach in research and licensing deal (endpts)
 - Roughly two years after Stablix embarked on a mission to stabilize certain proteins whose insufficiency leads to
 disease, Vertex Pharmaceuticals announced it's coming along for the ride. Stablix and Vertex unveiled a
 collaboration on Tuesday that gives Vertex an exclusive license to certain molecules discovered under the pact.
 Stablix has billed its platform as a "first-in-category" approach that's essentially the inverse of PROTACs. The idea is
 to recruit enzymes called deubiquitinases, or DUBs, to restore useful proteins for potential use in rare diseases,
 oncology and immunology. Stablix is calling their drugs RESTORACs.
- 04.24.23 Cidara Therapeutics Receives \$20 Million Milestone Payment Following Fda Approval Of Rezzayo™ (Pr)
 - Cidarais a biotechnology company developing long-acting therapeutics designed to save lives and improve the standard of care for patients facing serious diseases, today announced receipt of a \$20 million milestone payment from Melinta Therapeutics following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval of REZZAYO™ (rezafungin for injection), a novel, once-weekly echinocandin antifungal approved for the treatment of candidemia and invasive candidiasis.