

Kelonia Therapeutics Enters \$800M Research Collaboration and Licensing Agreement with Xyphos Biosciences

Client News

February 15, 2024

Gunderson Dettmer represented biotech client Kelonia Therapeutics in its \$800 million research collaboration and licensing agreement with Xyphos Biosciences, a wholly owned subsidiary of Astellas Pharma. Kelonia is a biotech company pioneering a new wave of genetic medicines using its in vivo gene placement system (iGPS®). Xyphos holds a novel and proprietary ACCEL™ technology platform that uses its convertibleCAR® on immune cells.

To develop novel Immuno-Oncology therapeutics, the companies plan to combine Kelonia's iGPS® with Xyphos' ACCEL™ technology to develop innovative in vivo CAR-T Cell therapies targeting up to two programs. Xyphos will be responsible for the development and commercialization of products created from the collaborative research. Kelonia will receive \$40 million upfront for the first program, and an additional \$35 million should Xyphos exercise its options for the second program, and potential milestones and contingency payments approaching \$800 million in total.

In the [announcement of the agreement](#), CEO and Founder of Kelonia, Kevin Friedman, PH.D. said, "Our iGPS platform has the potential to be a step change in the treatment of cancer. Combining Kelonia's in vivo gene delivery capabilities with the ACCEL™ convertible CAR technology is an ideal marriage of technologies to create off-the-shelf, universal CAR-T Cell therapies. We see revolutionary promise in this approach, and will work diligently with our partners at Astellas to unlock its full potential for patients that need it most."

The Gunderson Dettmer team was led by Tim Ehrlich and Aliya Sanders and included David Koenig.

Companies

Kelonia Therapeutics

Xyphos Biosciences

Astellas Pharma

Related People



Timothy H. Ehrlich

PARTNER

P +1 617 648 9399



Aliya J. Sanders

PARTNER

P +1 212 430 3172

David S. Koenig

ASSOCIATE

P +1 929 612 4024

Related Services

Featured Insights

CLIENT NEWS

Brazilian Carbon Capture Company Mombak Announces \$30M Financing

CLIENT NEWS

Africa B2B OmniRetail Announces \$20M Financing

CLIENT NEWS

Glacier Announces Series A Financing to Expand Robot Recycling Fleet

CLIENT NEWS

Dataminr Announces \$100M Investment Led by Fortress Investment Group

CLIENT NEWS

Omnidian Announces \$87M Series C for Renewable Energy Performance

INSIGHTS

Splitting the Pie: How Savvy Founders Divide Ownership and Navigate Other Founder Equity Decisions

CLIENT NEWS

Chainguard Announces \$356 Million Series D Led by Kleiner Perkins and IVP

INSIGHTS

Client Insight: California AI Transparency Act

INSIGHTS

Client Insight: Prepare for BE-10 Benchmark Survey of US Direct Investment Abroad

INSIGHTS

Tech Brew Interviews Aaron Rubin in “Where the legal battle stands around

copyright and AI training”

CLIENT NEWS

Latin America Fintech Belvo Announces \$15M Funding

INSIGHTS

Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides 2025: Venture Capital (Singapore)