



## **Corner Therapeutics announces \$54 million Series A funding to pioneer novel vaccines that provide lifelong immunity**

**Watertown, Mass.**, April 18, 2024: Corner Therapeutics, an immunotherapy company pioneering novel vaccines, today announced that it has raised \$54 million to create vaccines that confer lifelong protection from cancer and infectious diseases.

The funding, led by Ziff Capital Partners and including Cockrell Interests, Tanis Ventures, and Sandia Holdings, will boost Corner's mission to enable the immune system to engineer long-living, disease-fighting T cells. Corner is bringing its antigen agnostic technology to the development of vaccines against cancer and infectious disease. Grant funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is helping Corner to apply its approach to infectious diseases such as HIV, influenza and COVID-19.

Corner's technologies focus on unleashing the natural intelligence of the body's dendritic cells (DCs) – the apex regulators of the immune system – to provide lifelong protection from disease. To date, T cell related therapies, including checkpoint inhibitors, IL-2, CAR-T, and TILs, have formed the basis of immunotherapy breakthroughs, but have done so with a high financial or physical cost to patients, and significant safety and efficacy limitations. Corner is the first therapy to supercharge DCs to effectively generate personalized in-vivo T cell therapies, with the promise of more powerful and precise medicines.

Corner's revolutionary approach builds on the groundbreaking immunology research of its scientific co-founder Dr. Jonathan Kagan, Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Corner introduces two proprietary technologies – a DC hyperactivation platform and a catalytic adjuvant platform, both of which induce robust and durable T cell and antibody production in a variety of preclinical models. Both technologies derive from new innovations in the Nobel Prize winning field of innate immunity.

Corner's DC hyperactivation platform unleashes the power of inflammasomes in living DCs, which stimulate the production of IL-1 $\beta$ , the key T cell memory signal. Its catalytic adjuvant platform is designed to stimulate DCs via mRNA-based vaccines that can be deployed rapidly to address the ever-changing infection and cancer antigen landscape. Together, these two complementary platforms promise to usher in a new era of broad, durable, patient-friendly and low-cost immunotherapies.

"This funding will put rocket boosters under Corner's pioneering work to achieve the holy grail of treatments: vaccines that provide lifelong protection from a virtually unlimited range of the most prevalent and lethal diseases," said Steven M. Altschuler, MD, Chief Executive Officer of Corner Therapeutics. "We are now accelerating the development of our twin-engine platforms, with the vision of lifelong protection from cancer and infectious diseases."

"Personalized cancer vaccines with a powerful and precise ability to eradicate a patient's cancer, are a decades-old dream that has remained out of reach, in large part because of the



inability of vaccines to bridge the 'last mile' of robust and durable T cell responses. This T cell 'last mile' is also key to providing the durability component to many infectious disease vaccines, where protective antigens are known but vaccine efficacy wanes over time, in particular in the elderly," said Dr. Jonathan Kagan, President of Corner Therapeutics.

Corner expects to initiate its first clinical study next year. In preclinical studies, Corner's approach is [proven to induce protective immunity](#) from cancer and infection – and is especially effective in elderly or immunocompromised subjects. In November, *mBio* [published research confirming](#) that Corner's catalytic adjuvant platform can enhance the immunogenicity of lipid nanoparticle vaccines. In 2022, *Nature Reviews Immunology* [published research led by Corner's Scientific Co-founder Jonathan Kagan outlining](#) how hyperactivated DCs stimulate antitumor cell immunity.

### **About Corner Therapeutics, Inc.**

Corner Therapeutics is the immunotherapy company unlocking lifelong protection from cancer and infectious diseases. Using its novel dendritic cell stimuli platforms, Corner teaches the immune system to engineer its own long-lived, disease-fighting T cells. Corner's technology solves the "last mile" problem that has kept researchers from achieving the holy grails of medicine: therapeutic cancer and infectious disease vaccines that provide life-long immunity. With its antigen-agnostic platform, Corner is revolutionizing care for an exceptionally wide range of cancers and infectious diseases. The company has received funding from leading organizations like the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and partners with prominent biopharma companies to fully realize the protective promise of both therapeutic and preventative vaccines.

Corner was founded by Dr. Jonathan Kagan, Marian R. Neutra, PhD Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and Director of Basic Research and Shwachman Chair in Gastroenterology at Boston Children's Hospital and Steven M. Altschuler, M.D., Managing Director of Healthcare Ventures at Ziff Capital Partners and CEO of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia from 2000 to 2015 and co-founder and Chair of Spark Therapeutics until its sale to Roche in 2019. For more information about Corner Therapeutics, visit <https://cornertx.com/>

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