PRAGUE BIO Conference

PRAGUE.BIO CONFERENCE 2025

Content

Welcome

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the third edition of the Prague.bio Conference.

What began in 2023 as a pioneering initiative has evolved into a unique and respected event in the Czech biotech landscape. With each year, Prague.bio Conference has grown in scope, quality, and ambition – and thanks to your continued interest and support, we can now speak of a tradition in the making.

Founded only two years ago by six founding members, the Prague.bio association has quickly grown to include nearly 40 organizations, establishing itself both on the national and international stage. The growing number of foreign participants and submitted projects this year confirms this trend – and so does our participation in international events across Europe.

We are especially proud to share that in 2026, Prague will host BioEquity Europe, the leading European investor conference for the life sciences industry. It will be the first time ever this prestigious event takes place in Central Europe – a milestone we believe marks the beginning of a new chapter for our ecosystem.

This year's Prague.bio Conference continues to build on what has worked well, while adding new features and perspectives. Whether you're a startup founder, investor, scientist, tech transfer professional, or policy maker, we hope you find inspiration, new connections, and opportunities to collaborate. We would also like to sincerely thank our co-organizers, sponsors, and other supporters whose engagement and commitment have made this event possible.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. If you enjoy the 2025 edition, we'll be grateful for your positive references, and equally for any constructive feedback that can help us move forward and improve future editions. We already look forward to welcoming you again: in May 2026 at BioEquity Europe, and in September for Prague.bio Conference 2026.

Enjoy the event and the meaningful conversations it will inspire!

PRAGUE.BIO:
Petra Kinzlová (CEO)
and **Jiří Fusek** (Managing Director)

Agenda

09:00 - 09:30

WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
The official opening of the event will follow the registration of participants.

09:30 - 09:50

SPECIAL GUEST: WOJCIECH NOWAK
Welcome Wojciech Nowak, Chairman of the Healthcare Council and board member of EuropaBio.

09:50 - 10:30

INVESTOR PANEL DISCUSSION
The next item on the agenda is a panel discussion with representatives from VC funds and investment vehicles.

10:30 - 11:00

COFFEE BREAK
Enjoy a coffee and chat with other participants of our conference.

11:00 - 11:30

KEYNOTE SPEECH: HANNAH NELSON
Welcome Hannah Nelson, Associate Director of Licensing at Venture Partners at The University of Colorado Boulder.

11:30 - 12:35

PITCH SESSION #1
Introducing the first half of the projects and startups presenting their technologies.

12:35 - 13:35

LUNCH
Please accept our invitation to lunch. We wish you a bon appetit.

13:35 - 13:55

SPONSOR PRESENTATION: BRISTOL MYERS SQUIBB
It is time for our long-term partner, Bristol Myers Squibb.

13:55 - 15:00

PITCH SESSION #2
Introducing the second half of the projects and startups presenting their technologies.

15:00 - 15:40

BIOTECH EXECUTIVES PANEL DISCUSSION
Executives from emerging companies will share their experiences from the early days of their start-up.

15:40 - 16:25

POSTER SESSION & COFFEE BREAK
Enjoy a coffee and meet the technologies during the poster session,

16:25 - 16:35

SPONSOR PRESENTATION: SGS VITROLOGY
After the coffee, we will continue with a presentation by our sponsor, SGS Vitrology.

16:35 - 17:05

KEYNOTE SPEECH: PHILIPP KUKURA
Welcome Philipp Kukura, Founder and Non-Executive Director at Refeyn Ltd.

17:05 - 17:45

AI IN DRUG DISCOVERY PANEL DISCUSSION
The third panel discussion will explore the timely and evolving impact of AI in drug discovery.

17:45 - 18:00

CLOSING REMARKS + AWARDS
It is time to award the best pitches and wrap up the third edition of Prague.bio Conference.

18:00 - 21:00

NETWORKING RECEPTION HOSTED BY SANACLIS
Meet your new contacts, partners and friends.

Our Partners

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Our Speakers

Keynote Speakers

Philipp Kukura is the Professor of Chemistry at the Kavli Institute for Nanoscience Discovery and the Physical and Theoretical Chemistry Laboratory at the University of Oxford. His research focuses on the development and application of novel optical technologies for the life sciences. He has pioneered mass photometry, a novel way to study biomolecules by mass, and founded Refeyn Ltd, where he served as CEO from 2018 – 2020.

Transitioning from a Breakthrough in the Laboratory to a Rapidly Growing Start-up: Challenges and Opportunities

16:35 - 17:05

Philipp read Chemistry at St Hugh's College Oxford until 2002 and obtained a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley under the supervision of Professor Rich Mathies in ultrafast spectroscopy before moving to ETH Zurich to work with Professor Vahid Sandoghdar in nano-optics. In 2016, he promoted to Full Professor at the University of Oxford.

PHILIPP KUKURA

REFEYN LTD

Founder and non-executive director

Hannah Nelson is the Associate Director of Licensing at Venture Partners at The University of Colorado Boulder, where she leads the bioscience team and works with university inventors to commercialize their scientific research.

With the help of programs developed by Venture Partners, The University of Colorado Boulder has seen a record of thirty-five new start-ups in the year 2024, the second most by any university in the United States of America ever.

How CU Boulder Transformed University Innovation into Start-up Success

11:00 - 11:30

Hannah has over a decade of experience in strategic licensing and intellectual property management in life sciences from various U.S. institutions and holds a Ph.D. in Microbiology from The University of Texas at Austin.

HANNAH NELSON

VENTURE PARTNERS @CU BOULDER

Associate Director of Licensing

Venture Partners
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

Special Guest

Wojciech Nowak is a distinguished global healthcare leader with more than 25 years of experience in shaping policy, leading public affairs, and driving strategic initiatives in the life sciences industry. He currently serves as Chairman of the Healthcare Council and member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors at EuropaBio, the leading European biotechnology association, where he plays a key role in advancing innovation-friendly health and industrial policies across Europe.

WOJCIECH NOWAK

EUROPABIO

Chairman of the Healthcare Council, Executive Committee and Board of Directors Member

Global - EU Biotech Competitiveness

09:30 - 09:50

In addition, he holds the position of Global Executive Director at Novartis and serves as a Board Member at JCC. Wojciech is also an active MBA lecturer, sharing his insights on healthcare systems, policy, and international business. Wojciech's professional journey spans both public and private sectors.

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PRAGUE BIO

Investor Panel

DAVID FLORES

BIOCENTURY
Co-Founder, President & CEO

David is the architect of BioCentury's global platform of analysis, data and executive conferences. David has served as a member of the Advisory Board of the Innovation and New Ventures Office at Northwestern University and served on the Advisory Council of the Keck Graduate Institute of the Applied Life Sciences. David is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley and holds an MBA from Stanford University.

INGRID KELLY

XISTA SCIENCE VENTURES
Partner

Ingrid is a member of the investment team at xista science ventures, an Austrian VC fund that invests in early stage European deeptech and life science academic spinoffs and startups. Ingrid holds a PhD in molecular biology from the University of Cambridge, is a qualified European Patent Attorney with experience in the pharma industry, and has been active since 2012 in technology transfer.

MAREK TYL

EPPENDORF SE
BD Manager

Marek currently oversees strategy, venture capital investments, and mergers and acquisitions at Eppendorf's Corporate Development team. Prior to this, Dr. Tyl was a Scientific Advisor and Innovation Hub Lead at Takeda Pharmaceuticals in London. Before his tenure at Takeda, he founded and led the Global Innovation Forum. Marek earned his Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Cambridge.

JOHN MURRAY

SANACLIS
VP Global Business Development

John leverages his experience within the drug development across multiple disciplines, from clinical operations, supply chain, sourcing and risk mitigation co-investment. John is brokering new strategic partnerships and developing collaborations between SanaClis and top 10 Pharma through to single asset biotechs. He currently heads high-priority alliances with various global governmental institutions.

AI in Drug Discovery Panel

KINGA MATULA

QURIEGEN
Chief Executive Officer

CEO and co-founder of QurieGen, and Entrepreneur in Residence at Scope Discovery. Kinga is a biotechnologist and doctor of physical chemistry with over 15 years of multidisciplinary research experience and deep expertise in single-cell multi omics. As a former oncology patient, she is passionate about bridging the gap between scientific innovation and real patient impact.

PAVLINA KOUTECKA

i&i BIOTECH FUND I
Scientific Analyst

Pavlína is a computer scientist specializing in artificial intelligence and bioinformatics. Her career path reflects a blend of deep technical knowledge, cutting-edge research, and a startup environment. She is focusing on projects at the intersection of AI, life sciences, and healthcare. During her time at the CIIRC, she contributed to research in the field of mathematical optimization and machine learning.

JAKUB LOMBERSKY

MSD
Director, ML Engineering

Jakub Lombersky is leading MSD's main initiative for Generative Artificial Intelligence that allows fast adoption and safe utilization of Artificial Intelligence technologies in all divisions across the globe. He is a Software Engineering expert with more than ten years of experience in emerging technologies, including Big Data, Internet of Things, and Artificial Intelligence.

STEPANKA HAVLIKOVA

DENTONS
Senior Associate

Štěpánka is a lawyer specializing on AI, IP, software, licensing, and data privacy. Štěpánka regularly advises providers of AI models and banks and other companies implementing AI systems. She is also a PhD Candidate at the Institute of Law and Technology at MUNI with research dedicated to web scraping for gen AI training. Štěpánka is endorsed as a Rising Star for TMT in CZ by Legal500.

Biotech Executives Panel

MICHAEL KREBS

HEARTBEAT.BIO
Co-Founder &
Chief Executive Officer

Michael has 20+ years of experience as a founder, start-up manager and executive board member at several fast-growing life science organizations in Germany and Austria. Prior to that, Michael worked for 8 years in auditing, corporate finance and management consulting. He has a degree in Business Administration from Johann Wolfgang Goethe University and an Executive MBA in Mergers & Acquisitions from University of Muenster.

VACLAV NAVRATIL

DIANA BIOTECHNOLOGIES
Chief Executive Officer &
Chief Technology Officer

Václav plays a key role in leading the company's research and development efforts. He holds a PhD in Biochemistry from Charles University and has over a decade of independent scientific experience in biochemical and molecular biology research, primarily at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry. Václav is a co-author of several international patent applications, including the proprietary DIANA technology.

MARIAN KUPCULAK

SENSIBLE BIOTECHNOLOGIES
Co-founder & Chief Science Officer

Marian is the Co-founder and CSO of Sensible Biotechnologies, a biotech startup pioneering the design and manufacturing of mRNA therapeutics using living cells. With a background in biochemistry, Marian earned his undergraduate degree in Bratislava, Slovakia, followed by research internships at the Vienna Biocenter and the University of Gothenburg. He later completed a DPhil in Biochemistry at the University of Oxford.

PAWEL ZOLNIERCZYK

IQURE PHARMA
Chief Executive Officer

Pawel founded the oncology spin-off Onco-NX Ltd, sold in 2014. He led new therapeutic and diagnostic projects, achieving exits via licensing to global pharma. He raised $20M for early-stage companies from various investors. Four years, he served as IP and R&D Manager and COO at Incanthera Plc, overseeing 100+ patents and 4 preclinical drugs. He holds degrees from Gdansk University of Technology and the University of Salford.

Our Moderators

MICHALA HERGETOVA

Moderator of Prague.bio Conference 2025

Michala is a Television reporter and host of business news and events. She graduated from the University of Economics in Prague in 2005 with a degree in International Trade and European Integration. With her strong background in economics and long-standing experience in media, she brings expertise and professionalism to moderating conferences and other business events.

MAGDALENA MARCINIAK

Moderator of the Investor Panel Discussion

Magdalena is an experienced manager with 10+ years in healthcare, biotech, and FMCG sectors. She is skilled in business development, commercialization, and building strategic partnerships. Her expertise includes team leadership, project management, and operational optimization. Magdalena is PhD candidate in project management at Cracow University of Economics, author, lecturer, and consultant.

CHRIS TAME

Moderator of the AI in Drug Discovery Panel Discussion

Chris has over eighteen years of experience in drug discovery, working at the interface of chemistry, biology and computation, delivering innovative tech products and clinical candidates for unmet diseases. In late 2024, Chris founded Ternary Therapeutics, which focuses on building a computational platform for the design of molecular glues; the next generation of small molecule therapeutics.

LILIANA UNACHUKWU

Moderator of the Biotech Executives Panel Discussion

Liliana is a deep tech venture builder and startup advisor, co-founder of Pipette & Chart, and mentor in leading European Union accelerators. She helps science-driven teams bridge the validation gap and succeed internationally. Passionate about empowering first-time founders, she drives the inception of bold innovations in health, biotech, and advanced materials.

General Partner

Pilot Collaboration by Bristol Myers Squibb & Carebot

Lung cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, when treatment options are limited. Chest X-ray remains the most widely used imaging examination worldwide — and a critical opportunity for earlier detection, provided that subtle signs are recognized in time.

AI-Supported Early Detection of Lung Cancer from Chest X-Rays (and What It Means for Patients)

13:35 - 13:55

In January 2025, Bristol Myers Squibb and Carebot launched a pilot program across nine Czech hospitals (including two University centers), integrating AI-powered chest X-ray analysis directly into routine workflows. In its first six months, the system analyzed over 100,000 examinations, flagging potential abnormalities for rapid multidisciplinary review and fast-track diagnostic follow-up.

Preliminary results show that this approach can accelerate the detection of serious disease, giving patients a better chance at timely and effective treatment, while supporting clinicians with actionable, real-time insights.

Data after three-months will be shown together with the most interesting case reports where AI-support clearly demonstrated its added value for identification of early stages of lung cancer where benefit of possible subsequent therapies seems to be the most significant.

MAREK STASTNY

BRISTOL MYERS SQUIBB
Senior Director, Digital Health
Lead International Markets

Marek is enthusiastic immunologist by background. In 2007 he moved to Bristol-Myers Squibb as a Scientific Advisor working on immuno-oncology approaches in melanoma, renal cancer, lung cancer and Hodgkin Lymphoma. In 2022, he started to work also as a Local Liaison for Business Development & Molecule Scouting in the Czech Republic.

Daniel is the CEO and co-founder of Carebot, a biotech startup focusing on developing artificial intelligence systems for analyzing X-ray images. He has authored several scientific studies and serves as a reviewer for the prestigious journal European Radiology. His goal is to make innovative biotechnology solutions accessible to the general public and enhance diagnostics through AI.

DANIEL KVAK

CAREBOT
Co-founder
CEO

Pitch & Poster Session

Pitch Session

BIOPOLYCORE

A breakthrough technology optimizing efficiency, productivity, and quality across a wide range of biotechnological applications. It utilizes unique innovations in physical chemistry, supramolecular chemistry, and nanochemistry. Signaling biopolymers deliver 80-500% more active substances, shorten diagnostic times by 80%, and increase the number of stem cells.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

SignaCell: Signaling biopolymers with active structure and surface architecture

Country: Poland

DIANA BIOTECHNOLOGIES

A simple, rapid and ultra-sensitive method for the detection of sepsis causing pathogens. It features simple blood treatment and runs on standard laboratory equipment. The test is multiplexed and can be adapted to ultra-fast protocols. First clinical data show dramatically improved sensitivity over the current methods while retaining specificity. Due to its simplicity and sensitivity, it has the potential to become the new standard in sepsis diagnostics.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Ultra-Sensitive PCR Platform for Sepsis Pathogen Detection from Whole Blood

Country: Czech Republic

INSTITUTE OF EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE CAS

A novel NMDA receptor antagonist effectively block the open channel under physiological conditions, offering neuroprotection and a proven antiepileptic effect with superior safety and comparability to current anti-NMDA drugs. The compounds cross the blood-brain barrier, do not cause irreversible blockade, and target both wild-type and mutant NMDARs.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Antiepileptic effect of novel N-methyl-D-aspartate receptors antagonist

Country: Czech Republic

HEARTBEAT.BIO

HeartBeat.bio is a pioneering TechBio company developing breakthrough medicines for heart failure by integrating more predictive human model systems with AI-driven data analytics, advanced robotics and imaging.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Unique human-centric and AI-driven TechBio platform for unlocking innovation in heart failure drug discovery

Country: Austria

Pitch Session

IOCB PRAGUE

The Stimulator of Interferon Genes (STING) pathway is crucial in cancer immunotherapy, bridging innate and adaptive immunity by detecting cytosolic DNA and triggering type I interferon production. Its activation can enhance antitumor immune responses by promoting effective dendritic cell function and T-cell priming. There is ample evidence that STING activation enhances cancer antigen presentation, leading to the recognition and killing of cancer cells by T cells.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

STING-ADC for Cancer Treatment

Country: Czech Republic

IOCB PRAGUE

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Pioneering Breakthrough Therapies for Lipid-Related Conditions

Country: Czech Republic / Netherlands

IOCB PRAGUE

Univerzita Karlova

LIPIDERA THERAPEUTICS

LipidEra Tx is developing MI-883, a first-in-class oral small molecule that targets the nuclear receptors CAR and PXR through a groundbreaking MoA to treat severe and genetic hypercholesterolemia. MI-883 shows PoC and exerts pleiotropic effects on lipids, bile acids, and inflammation. With oral delivery, strong PCD data and safety profile, it offers an innovative alternative to current therapies.

MASARYK UNIVERSITY

Drug discovery often fails when proteins lack drug-binding pockets. Targeting mRNAs offers an alternative but is limited by RNA structural complexity. We developed an FA-based HTS platform using overlapping RNA fragments screened against a specialized small-molecule library. This method identifies binders that modulate RNA structure. Screening the 3'UTR of oncogene c-MYC confirmed the approach, yielding specific binders with functional activity.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

RNAutrix: Accelerating Drug Discovery - A Platform for RNA-based Drug Screening and Beyond

Country: Czech Republic

MOLECULE 46

Molecule 46 brings a disruptive technology for diagnostics and separation of undamaged sperm for improvement of human fertility and livestock breeding. It is to be utilised for assisted reproduction to enhance fertilisation, sperm cryopreservation of donors, infertile men, oncological patients, social freezing, diagnostics of reproductive health and animal breeding. We trust to contribute to improvement of healthy reproducing populations and breeding strategies of on endangered species.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Unique Kits for Separation and Diagnostics of Undamaged Sperm

Country: Czech Republic

Pitch Session

RIANA THERAPEUTICS

New classes of anti-cancer inhibitors that specifically target protein-protein interactions (PPIs) to improve the lives of cancer patients, with a focus on acute myeloid leukemia (AML), a deadly disease with fewer than 30% of AML patients surviving 5 years post-diagnosis. Our lead program STAT5, leveraging our proprietary screening platform, has completed hit validation and is currently in the hit-to-lead stage open for investors to join our first investment round.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Targeting the undruggable - first-in-class transcription factor inhibitors for cancer treatment

Country: Austria

NANOFLEXION

Nanoflexion introduces the first-ever nanofiber patch designed to actively prevent life-threatening complications in intestinal surgery. This multilayer, resorbable material has demonstrated success in large animal models and represents a paradigm shift in surgical healing. With scalable production and broad application potential, we are now seeking partners to bring this disruptive innovation into clinical practice.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Nanoflexion: Advanced Nanofiber Technology to Improve Postoperative Outcomes

Country: Czech Republic

TUARI THERAPEUTICS

KRAS mutations are the most common genetic alteration in cancer with 5 million new patients worldwide yearly who don't have effective therapies. Drugs targeting KRAS G12C are approved but they are insufficient to confer durable response as resistance occurs in all patients. Tuari specializes in the field of GTPases applied to RAS pathway and chose, as first target, RAL GTPase which is responsible for relaying KRAS oncogenic signal.

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

Developing New GTPases Inhibitors for KRAS-addicted Cancer

Country: Germany

TUARI therapeutics

TITLE OF TECHNOLOGY

KidneyGuard – enzymatic biosensor platform

Country: Czech Republic

UNIVERSITY OF CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY PRAGUE

UCT PRAGUE

KidneyGuard is a continuous biosensor for real-time creatinine monitoring, enabling earlier detection of acute kidney injury (AKI) than current methods. Early AKI diagnosis supports timely intervention and better outcomes. Its modular enzyme design allows quick adaptation for detecting various biomarkers, enhancing its diagnostic versatility.

Poster Session

COMPANY	TECHNOLOGY TITLE
Adalid Sciences	Lipid Nanoparticles for Gene Delivery
CasInvent Pharma	Fighting resistant tumors with best-in-class inhibitors of casein kinase 1
Deep MedChem	CHEESE, the ultra-fast platform for early drug discovery
DIANA Biotechnologies	Novel platform for single-cell monoclonal antibody discovery and AI-powered optimization
DIANA Biotechnologies	DIANA Panel for Kinase Inhibitor Selectivity Profiling: Key Tool for Early Drug Discovery
Enamine	Integrated platform for rapid PROTACs discovery: Case Study Targeting BRD4
EPIK Care	Postbiotic nanoencapsulation for microbiome-friendly care
ICPF CAS	Selective Galectin-1 Inhibitors RuTDG and BuRuTDG for Targeted Treatment of Triple Negative Breast Cancer
IOCB Prague	Quantum Mechanical Scoring (SQM) for Accurate and Efficient Structure-Based Drug Design
IOCB Prague	Selective and potent small-inhibitors of cGAS for treatment of auto-inflammatory diseases
Institute of Physics CAS	FunBRUSH
J. Heyrovsky Institute CAS	A novel long-term photostable nanocluster fluorophore for highly bleach-resistant fluorescence
LifeTaq-Analytics	Oli-MAT 3D cell cultivation unit

COMPANY	TECHNOLOGY TITLE
Lightly Technologies	Catcher: Real-time field detection of counterfeit and fentanyl-laced drugs using AI-powered fingerprinting
Living Networks	Vascularized Tissue microArrays (VTμA) for High-Throughput Drug Screening
Masaryk University	Preclinical Centre of Masaryk University (Preclin) - cutting-edge academic and research centre
MedicMee	MedicMee – an expert system for interpretation and complex management of medical records
MiCo Scientific	Lipobiomix™: Advanced Nutritional Shots Supporting Oncology Therapy and Patient Recovery
Nencki	Synthetic peptide I49 acting as a immunomodulator for brain tumor therapy
P4P Technology	Substitute for Human Blood Plasma and Method of Its Production
sThesis	Mid-IR Opto-Acoustic Sensing: The Future of Non-Invasive Glucose Monitoring
UCT Prague	The therapeutic potential of mitochondrial dynamics modulation
UCT Prague	Robo-Pharmacist: Automating Personalized Drug Compounding
UHKT/Medirekt Partner	Innovative microfluidic device designed for the separation of immiscible liquids
UniteLabs	The Automation OS for Ambitious Labs
VR-W MedTech	VR-based platform for assessment, rehabilitation and prevention of CNS and balance disorders

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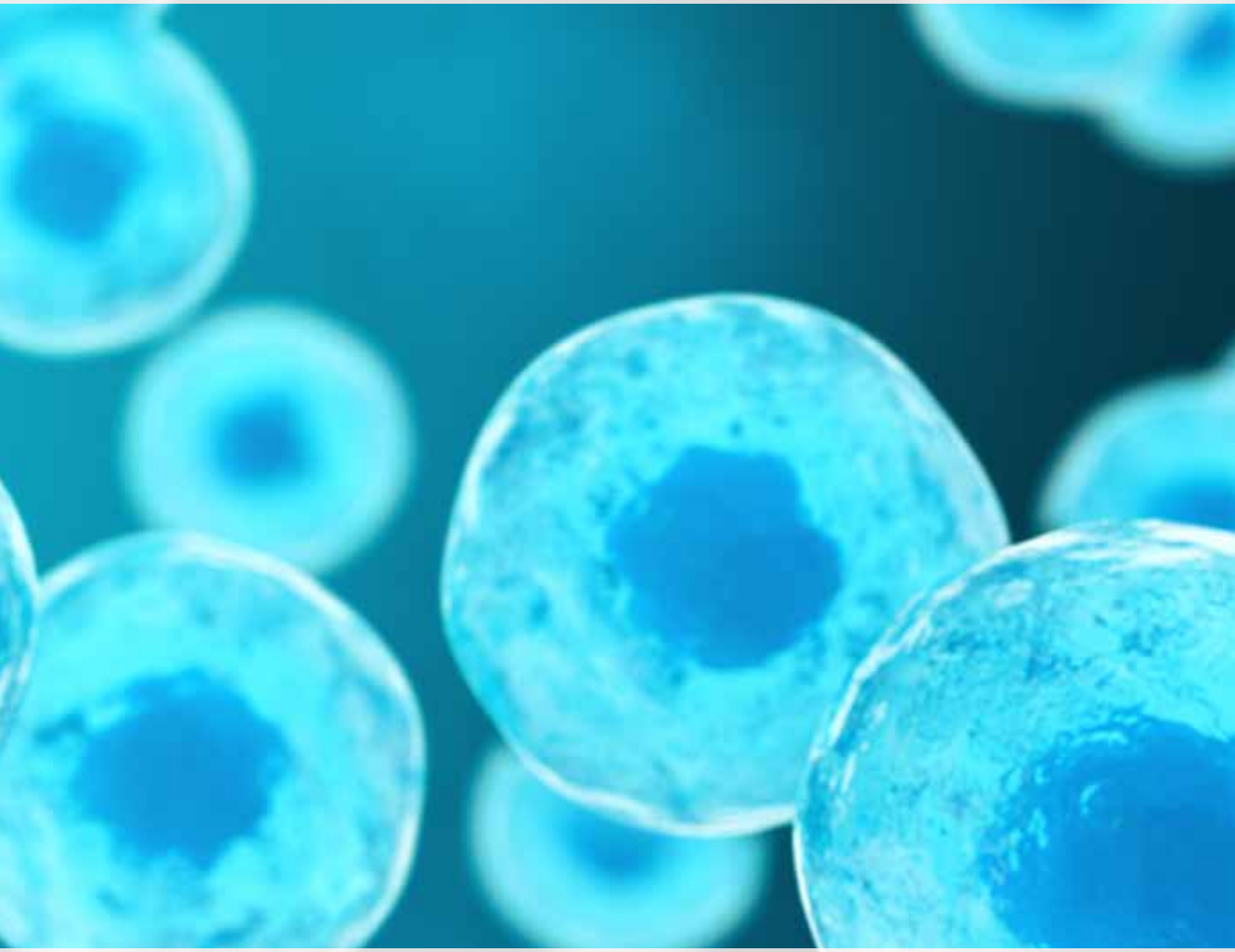

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