

Disarm Therapeutics

This example demonstrates the impact of BioGenerator's pre-investment Grants program, coupled with its approach of bringing experienced industry scientists to repeat and extend promising academic research.

Introduction

Disarm Therapeutics was founded based on discoveries made by Washington University professors Jeffrey Milbrandt and Aaron DiAntonio. The company is developing therapeutics to treat patients with neurological diseases by preventing axonal degeneration. Before the company was formed, BioGenerator supported the academic founders with pre-investment funding, advice, and introductions. Disarm has raised a \$30M Series A.

Pre-Investment Support from BioGenerator.

BioGenerator provided pre-company funding from its Grants program, leveraging the experienced pharma scientists in its portfolio company, Confluence Discovery Technologies, to repeat and extend the original academic work, develop and validate a high throughput assay, and complete initial medicinal chemistry PoC. Collectively, this work was important validation of the novel target discovered by the founders. The industry scientists hired by BioGenerator had multiple meetings with the Series A investors, where they presented their results as an important part of the due diligence process. BioGenerator introduced the academic inventors to Rajesh Devraj of Atlas Ventures, who went on to co-found Disarm and now serves as its Chief Scientific Officer. Throughout negotiations with venture funds, BioGenerator provide advice and support to the founders regarding valuation and other key deal terms.

Current Snapshot

In September of 2017, Disarm announced a \$30M Series A financing, with follow-on investment from Atlas, and new participation from Lightstone Ventures and AbbVie Ventures

"BioGenerator helped us immensely by providing critical pre-company proof of concept funding, advice, and connections as we launched our new company. Their relationships with venture capital and experience structuring deals were invaluable in this process."

Jeffrey Milbrandt, MD, PhD
Head, Department of Genetics, Washington University
Co-Founder of Disarm Therapeutics

OBJECTIVES

- Enable commercialization of world class research at Washington University in St. Louis
- Support new technology to improve neurodegenerative diseases
- Enable advancement of new company

SOLUTION

- BioGenerator provided pre-company funding from its Grants program to repeat and extend the original academic work in the hands of experienced pharma industry experts
- BioGenerator introduced the inventors to a member of the Atlas Ventures team, who became the co-founder and CSO of the new company
- BioGenerator provided ongoing advice as the founders negotiated the Series A investment

RESULTS TO DATE

- Disarm Therapeutics raised a \$30M Series A after receiving initial seed money from Atlas Ventures
- The technology is being developed by experienced drug hunters in collaboration with top performing venture funds in life sciences