

PRESS RELEASE

Integra Tx secures €4.5-million in funding from Advent France Biotechnology, Invivo Capital and Takeda Ventures

The biotechnology company, which specialises in gene writing and was founded by researchers Marc Güell and Avencia Sánchez-Mejías of Pompeu Fabra University, got its start in Barcelona

The investment will be used to develop an innovative gene writing platform with the potential to make advanced therapies safer and more effective

Barcelona, 2 December 2021. Integra Therapeutics (Integra Tx), a biotechnology company that is creating **next-generation gene writing tools** to boost the efficiency and safety of advanced therapies, has completed its first round of funding for €4.5 million with Advent France Biotechnology (France), Invivo Capital (Spain) and Takeda Ventures (USA).

Integra Tx was founded in late 2020 as a spin-off of Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) based on technology developed in the Translational Synthetic Biology Lab led by **Dr Marc Güell** (EMBO Young Investigator, National Research Award for Young Talent and co-founder of two biotech firms).

The great potential of this novel gene writing technology lies in the fact that it **resolves some of the main technical limitations** of gene therapy: it can be used to paste DNA sequences of any size gene with high precision. Advanced therapies are one of the pillars of the medicine of the future and are aimed at both preventing and treating **genetic and oncological diseases** that, for now, are incurable.

The funds raised in this round will allow Integra Tx to complete the prototype of the new gene writing technology platform, carry out **preclinical validation** using *in vivo* and *ex vivo* models, and manage its patent portfolio in 2022 and 2023. After that, the company plans to open a Series A round to seek regulatory approval and carry out clinical trials with patients.

“We’re very proud to be transferring our scientific knowledge and technological skills in gene editing **from the lab to society**. We thank all our investors for their commitment to Integra Tx and to making advanced therapies safer and more effective, and getting them to patients that urgently need them,” says **Dr Avencia Sánchez-Mejías**, co-founder and CEO of Integra Tx. Sánchez-Mejías joined the UPF Translational Synthetic

Biology Lab in 2018 after doing research at the Institute of Biomedicine of Seville, the National University of Singapore and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

Dr Marc Güell, co-founder and CSO of Integra Tx, explains, “the Integra Tx technology platform is very promising because **it is an evolution of the CRISPR-Cas techniques**. We’ve found a way to merge them with transposase and integrase proteins that have a great capacity for gene transfer and to not depend on viral vectors for transporting the components into the cell, which is a step forward in making these therapies safer.” Plus, it has applications both *in vivo* (directly in patients) and *ex vivo* (outside of patients).

Matthieu Coutet, Managing Partner at Advent France Biotechnology, adds: “We decided to invest in Integra Tx because **we believe in its seasoned scientific and management team**. Its founders have shown a strong passion and ambition to move Integra Tx’s technology forward, combined with a proven expertise in gene editing and advanced therapies.”

Dr Luis Pareras, Managing Partner at Invivo Capital, says: “We’re thrilled with the possibilities Integra Tx’s platform can develop to solve the problem of cargo size in gene therapy. We’re also very pleased with the **international syndicate** supporting this seed round, in yet another example of technology transfer opportunity and the **competitiveness of the biotech ecosystem in Spain**.”

Miles Gerson, Takeda Ventures Partner and Senior Investment Director, says: “Takeda Ventures is very excited to support Integra Tx and their **next generation gene writing platform with many potential applications to benefit patients**.”

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About Integra Therapeutics

Integra Tx is a biotechnology company that is creating next-generation gene writing tools to make advanced therapies safer and more effective. The company was founded in 2020 as a spin-off of Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) by Dr Marc Güell and Dr Avencia Sánchez-Mejías and is based at the Barcelona Biomedical Research Park (PRBB). It is supported by international investors (Advent France Biotechnology, Invivo Capital and Takeda Ventures) and organisations in the healthcare and biomedicine sector (ACCIÓ-Government of Catalonia, Biocat, “la Caixa” Foundation and Innovalora programme at UPF). More information: www.integra-tx.com

About Advent France Biotechnology

Advent France Biotechnology (AFB) is an AMF-regulated company that invests in a range of sectors within the life sciences, specifically in therapeutics-oriented projects. AFB’s unique strategy combines early-stage investments in promising enterprises and strong entrepreneurial support to strengthen the company’s growth. Created in 2016 in Paris, AFB has a strong entrepreneurial spirit; from the inception of its first fund in 2017, it now maintains 15 European investments in France, Belgium, Spain and Ireland. AFB has developed strong relationships within the French innovation ecosystem; as a result, it has attracted international VC syndicates to its portfolio companies. The operational team is managed by Alain Huriez and Matthieu Coutet and has appointed a number of investment professionals with long-

standing track records in entrepreneurial ventures, combined with strong scientific and medical expertise.
More information: www.adventfb.com

About Invivo Capital

Invivo Capital Partners is a Spanish venture capital firm founded by Dr Luis Pareras and Albert Ferrer, which manages Invivo Ventures FCR, a venture capital fund that invests in life science companies at an early stage. Invivo Ventures FCR has a majority of private investors with the support of a number of institutional investors such as the European Investment Fund (EIF), Fond-ICO Global, the the Catalan Finance Institute, the Valencia Institute of Finance and the Barcelona City Council. More information: <https://invivo.capital>

About Takeda Ventures

Takeda Ventures, Inc. (TVI) is the corporate venture capital group of Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited (Takeda), and was founded in 2001 with the vision of generating disruptive technologies and therapeutic solutions for patients through venture-based partnerships. TVI's mission is to create strategic growth opportunities for Takeda by building, managing and investing in innovation-based companies. TVI partners with academic innovators, entrepreneurs and venture investors to create and nurture a portfolio of companies in an array of therapeutic areas, including oncology, gastroenterology and central nervous system disorders. More information: www.takedaventures.com.

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