

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 prevent axonal degeneration in patients with neurological diseases. Prior to company formation, BioGenerator supported the academic founders with pre-investment funding, advice, and introductions. Disarm later raised a \$30M Series A round.

Pre-Investment Support from BioGenerator.

BioGenerator provided pre-company funding from its Grants program, leveraging highly 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 PoC on initial medicinal chemistry leads. Collectively, this work provided important validation of the founders' discovery of a novel drug target. The industry experts hired by BioGenerator engaged in multiple meetings with venture firms evaluating an investment, contributing to 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. BioGenerator provided periodic education and advice to the founders regarding valuation and other key deal terms as they progressed through negotiations with venture funds.

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 combat 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 a co-founder and CSO of the new company
- BioGenerator provided periodic 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 life science venture funds