

NextImmune wins CHF 150,000 to develop a new generation of immunosuppressive drugs for autoimmune diseases and organ transplantation

St. Gallen/Zürich/Lausanne, June 27, 2022 — NextImmune, a University of Basel spin-off, is focused on the research and development of a novel class of immunosuppressive therapies for autoimmune-inflammatory diseases and organ transplantation. NextImmune's research and innovation lie in the discovery of a novel class of small molecules that suppress unwanted autoimmune responses and transplant rejection responses while maintaining the immune responses needed to defend against infections and cancers. NextImmune will use the CHF 150,000 Venture Kick financing to reach the next value inflection point, enabling further preclinical development.

A properly functioning immune system is essential to protect against invasive pathogens and to prevent the occurrence of cancers. In autoimmune diseases and organ transplantation, suppression of the immune system is indicated. However, conventional immunosuppression is non-selective and increases the risk of infections and tumors. NextImmune aims to offer selective and efficient immunosuppressive drugs without such complications, offering first-in-class drugs that target the coronin 1 pathway, as a novel treatment for diverse auto- and allo-immune disorders. These drugs will target a signaling pathway whose deficiency has been validated to be protective against autoimmune diseases and transplant rejection in the absence of infectious complications or the development of cancer. The startup's novel screening assay and screen-identified compounds signal the beginning of a new era of specificity and safety in the immunosuppressive therapy market.

NextImmune's solution will be beneficial to patients suffering from a variety of immunological and autoimmune diseases. The autoimmune therapeutic market is valued at over USD 109 billion and has been expanding at a 5% annual growth rate for the past five years.

"The financial support, business insights, access to a smart pool of diversely talented individuals together with the overall experience gathered from our Venture kick journey will be instrumental for the follow-up fundraising activities of NextImmune," says Dr. med. Rajesh Jayachandran, MD, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of NextImmune.



Dr. med. Rajesh Jayachandran, MD, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of NextImmune

[The NextImmune profile on VentureKick.ch](#)

About Venture Kick



The philanthropic initiative Venture Kick provides up to CHF 150,000 in seed funding to Swiss startups and offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path toward building a winning business. Startups pitch to expert juries at three stages to obtain funding and gain direct feedback and access to an international network of 200 successful entrepreneurs and investors. Winners of Venture Kick are eligible for CHF 850,000 investment from the Kickfund and an InnoBooster grant of an additional CHF 150,000.

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has supported 841 Swiss startup projects with CHF 39.71 million. The program of financial support, training, and network has led to the creation of 675 companies and 9,061 jobs. Venture Kick counts a portfolio of 518 active high-tech companies and 57 exits. Venture Kick alumni companies have attracted a total of CHF 5.3 billion and represent 59 companies ranked in the [TOP 100 Swiss Startups 2021](#).

In 2022, Venture Kick will pay out CHF 6.1 million to idea-stage startup projects to bring Swiss science to global markets.

The Venture Kick Foundation is supported by Gebert Rüt Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Hauser-Stiftung, André Hoffmann, Hansjörg Wyss, Martin Haefner, Fondation Pro Techno, ESA BIC Switzerland, and Swisscom.

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