

ZipBio: Compressing Biology to Develop the Next Generation of Gene Therapies

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CATEGORY: Biotech/Pharma SESSIONS: Next generation of genetic medicine

Executive Summary: ZipBio is a seed stage biotech company (seed investors: NfX and MoreVC). Through its proprietary generative-AI platform, ZipBio designs complex therapeutics that are small, effective, and safe, to address cases where size is a limiting factor on achieving the intended therapeutic effect. ZipBio's preclinical pipeline is focused on ophthalmology and includes first- and best-in-class programs addressing large-market indications. Core Technology ZipBio's COMPACT platform leverages recent breakthroughs in de-novo protein design and generative AI to craft novel therapeutics for hard-to-target indications. The platform outputs complex gene and protein therapies with an optimal size, while controlling the molecule's expression levels, solubility, affinity, and selectivity. COMPCAT is the first and only "lossless compression algorithm", unlocking opportunities to addresses some of the hardest unmet needs in medicine. Product Profile/Pipeline ZipBio's internal pipeline is focused on prevalent ophthalmology indications. The lead program is a pan-VEGF inhibitor for wet-AMD, followed by programs for DME, glaucoma, GA, and uveitis. ZipBio also has a few AAV gene therapy programs for collaboration with external partners. The lead programs have reached in-vitro functional POC, and in-vivo POC is expected in Q3 of 2024. Business Strategy ZipBio's business model is centered around development of internal programs through clinic. The COMPACT platform will keep generating the company's internal pipeline as well as research collaborations and co-development partnerships with external pharma and biotech partners. What's Next? ZipBio's lead program will reach in-vivo POC in Q3 of 2024, after which the company will raise a Series A round to take it into clinical trials. The following programs will progress through preclinical development in parallel, while the platform will keep generating new programs for internal development and BD partnership.