

[256] MODULATING THE MICROBIOME TO DEVELOP NOVEL THERAPEUTICS - AN EMERGING FIELD

Assaf Oron¹, ¹ Israel

Investment Rationale

MBcure is mission focused on developing novel therapeutics to alleviate human disease, stemming from the imbalance of the microbiome. Microbiome is a fast-developing new field at the interface of nutrition and pharmaceuticals, driven by the realization that microbials residing mainly in our gut, stomach and skin play a meaningful role in causing/alleviating disease.

Business Strategy

We develop drugs intended for microbiome modulation, either eradicating unwanted bacteria, utilizing phage cocktails or adding beneficial bacteria. We may apply personalized medicine approaches to characterize the patient's microbiome and adapt drugs to modulate it. We intend to enter into collaborations with leading pharma that would commercialize our products in return for upfront, R&D, Milestones and royalty payments.

Core Technology

We utilize a 3 tier platforms offering an end-to-end solution for the rapid analysis of complex microbiomes, identifying natural or designing synthetic phage and/or adding bacteria which undergo development into microbiome modulated drugs. Our platform applies expertise of our scientific founders, Prof. Rotem Sorek, phage biology expert, Dr. Eran Elinav, world leader microbiome research and Prof. Timothy K. Lu of MIT, phage synthetic modulation expert.

Product Profile/Pipeline

Our pipeline is diverse – addressing Acne, IBD, Gastric and colorectal cancer and cancer immune therapy drugs. Our Acne project is most advanced, it's at the development stage and expected to enter clinical trials in 2018. To date, we have entered partnerships to in-license components of our technology platform with the Weizmann Institute and MIT. We expect to enter into collaborations with leading pharma to further develop our products to market.

What's Next?

We recently completed a financing round (\$20 million), led by Takeda Ventures, J&J Innovation and OrbiMed Partners. Our relationship with Takeda and J&J is supporting challenges in our pipeline. Proceeds are used to drive the product pipeline to clinic and improve our technological platform.