

Press release

Immitra Bio receives CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick to reimagine stem cell therapy for rare diseases

St.Gallen/Zurich/Lausanne, June 15, 2026 — The ETH spin-off Immitra Bio has received CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick to develop a new treatment approach for rare genetic diseases. The biotech startup aims to replace complex stem cell transplantation procedures with a single injection, making potentially curative therapies more accessible to patients worldwide.

More than 7,000 rare genetic diseases affect an estimated 400 million people worldwide, yet 95% still lack an effective treatment. Current stem cell therapies for genetic disorders are often expensive, difficult to scale, and require intensive procedures such as chemotherapy and cell transplantation, limiting patient access and widespread adoption.

Immitra Bio is developing an in-vivo stem cell therapy designed to work directly inside the body. By harnessing natural biological mechanisms already present in the human genome, the approach aims to eliminate the need for chemotherapy, donor cells, and complex manufacturing processes. The goal is to provide a single, off-the-shelf treatment that can be broadly accessible and independent of a patient's specific genetic mutation.

Immitra's first wave of indications is focused on Red Blood Cell disorders, which are among the most severe inherited genetic diseases, affecting hundreds of thousands of patients worldwide.

The CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick will support Immitra Bio's preclinical proof-of-concept work and platform validation by reversing the disease in a disease model.

Combining expertise in genetic medicine, stem cell biology, and therapeutic development, the team is composed of co-founders CEO Jan Nelis, CSO Amir Taheri, and scientific advisor Jacob Corn, together with R&D scientist Veera Vainio.

"Venture Kick has been invaluable to Immitra Bio at a defining moment in our journey. Beyond funding, the process helped us sharpen our pitch, increase our visibility, connect directly with investors, access Venture Kick's extended network, and benefit from meaningful non-dilutive innobooster support," highlighted co-founder Amir Taheri. "I am very pleased to have VK joining our journey of bringing much needed therapies to patients."



Co-founders Jan Nelis (CEO), Prof. Jacob Corn (Scientific Advisor), and Amir Taheri (CSO)

[Immitra Bio's profile on Venture Kick](#)

About Venture Kick

The Venture Kick philanthropic initiative provides more than 1 million in seed funding to Swiss startups and offers a well-structured entrepreneurial path toward building a winning business. Startups pitch to Venture Kick juries in three stages to obtain CHF 150,000, gain direct feedback, and access a network of 250 international investors. Winners of Venture Kick are

eligible for an InnoBooster grant of CHF 150,000 and an additional CHF 850,000 investment from the Kickfund.

Since its launch in 2007, Venture Kick has supported 1,286 Swiss startup projects with CHF 103 million from private donors. Thanks to financial support, coaching, and networking with investors, this initiative has led to the emergence of 1,000+ thriving startup companies and the creation of 16,100+ jobs. Venture Kick alumni companies have attracted investments of CHF 10.2 billion and represent 66 companies ranked in the Top100 Swiss Startups in 2025 (<https://www.top100startups.swiss>).

Venture Kick is an initiative by the Kick Foundation, supported by a private consortium and operated by Venturelab. The supporting foundations and private philanthropic partners include Gebert Rüt Stiftung, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, Fondation ALCEA, Hauser-Stiftung, André Hoffmann, Hansjörg Wyss, Martin Haefner, Fondation ProTechno, ESA BIC Switzerland, Swisscom, Lichtsteiner Foundation, and Deep Tech Nation Switzerland Foundation.

Find more information on venturekick.ch, with [all startup projects supported by Venture Kick](#), and follow the success stories of our startups on [LinkedIn](#).

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