Press release

Vale Biolabs receives CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick to improve brain drug development with human tissue models

St.Gallen/Zurich/Lausanne, November 9, 2026 — The biotech startup Vale Biolabs has obtained CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick to advance a new approach to studying brain diseases and evaluating potential treatments. By combining lab-grown human brain tissue with advanced automation and predictive AI, the startup aims to help researchers better understand how the brain responds to drugs and improve the success of future therapies.

Developing treatments for brain disorders remains particularly challenging. Preclinical research relies heavily on animal testing, yet differences between animal and human biology often make it difficult to predict how a drug will perform in patients. As a result, promising treatments can fail during clinical trials, leading to costly setbacks and slowing the development of new therapies.

Vale Biolabs addresses this challenge by growing standardized human brain organoids, miniature tissue models that reproduce certain features of the human brain. The startup repeatedly measures how these models change over time, tracking their structure, activity, and molecular responses before and after treatment. By combining these observations into comprehensive datasets, Vale Biolabs develops predictive AI models to support research into brain development, neurodegenerative diseases, and healthy brain aging.

By testing drugs in human brain tissue earlier in development, the company aims to help drug developers identify promising treatments and detect potential failures before they reach clinical trials. Vale's platform has the potential to reduce clinical trial failures from rare neurological disorders to neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, saving billions in development costs, and bringing better treatments to patients faster.

The CHF 150,000 from Venture Kick will support the further development of Vale Biolabs' automated platform, the expansion of its human brain organoid models, and the generation of datasets to train and validate its predictive models. The funding will also help the startup progress its collaborations with research and industry partners.

The founding team, including Ilaria Incaviglia, Angeliki Damilou, Daniel Medina Cano, and Theodoulos Rodosthenous, combines expertise in organoid neurobiology, automation, data scienceengineering, and early-stage venture development.

"Venture Kick has challenged us to think more deeply about how we build Vale Biolabs and bring our technology to the researchers who need it. The funding and feedback will help us take the next step in developing human models that can improve how we study brain diseases and test potential treatments," highlights Co-Founder and CEO Ilaria Incaviglia.



Founding Scientist Angeliki Damilou and Co-Founder and CEO Ilaira Incaviglia

Vale Biolabs' 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 Rüf 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.

Management contacts
Beat Schillig, Co-Managing Director, +41 79 358 04 19 (DE/EN)
Jordi Montserrat, Co-Managing Director, +41 78 708 18 04 (FR/EN)

Media contacts
Rita Longobardi, +41 58 767 00 20 rita.longobardi@venturelab.swiss (EN/IT/DE)