

Japan's Astellas Pharma inks oncology deal worth \$800 M with US-based biotech startup Kelonia

20 February 2024 | News

Research and license agreement to develop novel immuno- oncology therapeutics



Japan headquartered Astellas Pharma and US-based biotech startup Kelonia Therapeutics have announced a collaborative effort between Xyphos Biosciences, Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Astellas) and Kelonia to develop innovative immuno-oncology therapeutics.

Kelonia specialises in genetic medicines using its *in vivo* gene placement system called iGPS, which efficiently delivers genetic cargo to target cells within the patient's body. Xyphos possesses a proprietary technology platform called ACCEL, which involves its convertibleCAR technology on immune cells.

Under the agreement, the companies will combine Kelonia's iGPS with Xyphos' ACCEL technology to develop novel *in vivo* CAR-T Cell therapies targeting up to two programmes.

Xyphos will lead the development and commercialisation efforts for products arising from this collaboration. Kelonia will receive an upfront payment of \$40 million for the first programme, with an additional \$35 million contingent upon Xyphos exercising its option for the second programme, and potential milestones and contingency payments approaching \$800 million in total. Kelonia will also receive R&D funding for its contributions to the collaboration and is eligible for tiered royalties on net sales.