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**Dutch firm that licensed OHSU tech gets $31M infusion**

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A biotech company based in The Netherlands that licensed technology from Oregon Health & Science University has raised $31 million in a Series A financing round.

Vico Therapeutics, which focuses on the development of RNA modulating therapies for rare neurological diseases, says it will use the funding to further advance its late preclinical stage lead platform. The company plans to develop therapies to treat forms of Spinocerebellar Ataxia and Huntington Disease and get them into first-in-human clinical trials in late 2021.

OHSU licensed technology to Vico developed by Gail Mandel, a senior scientist at the OHSU Vollum Institute. Mandel has focused on RNA editing, including research showing promise in correcting a mutation giving rise to Rett syndrome, a debilitating neurological disorder that occurs in girls. Most patients don’t live beyond the age of 40.

"I thought since I have a relatively small lab, we had some nice proof-of-principle experiments we could do in the lab, and a biotech company could move it forward faster," Mandel said.
She co-founded Vico, but it is based in The Netherlands because that is where another co-founder lives.

"It's taken on a life of its own," she said.

This is the second fundraising round for a company in recent weeks that licensed a technology from OHSU. In June, a San Diego company raised $76 million to develop a therapy to treat multiple sclerosis that came out an OHSU lab.

Elizabeth Hayes  
Staff Reporter  
*Portland Business Journal*