

GSK to boost oligonucleotide development with latest acquisition.

13 June 2024 Adam Jeffs, Editor, SAE Media Group

GSK will acquire Elsie Biotechnologies to bolster its ongoing efforts in development of oligonucleotide therapeutics



Credit: Marketing Week

GSK has announced the successful acquisition of San Diego-based startup Elsie Biotechnologies, in a deal worth up to \$50 million. The UK-based pharmaceutical giant [confirmed the acquisition on June 6](#), following an 11-month research collaboration.

Elsie Biotechnologies is dedicated to the development of oligonucleotide therapeutics and has built a platform featuring technologies for discovery,

synthesis and delivery of such therapies. GSK used the 11-month research partnership to assess Elsie's platform before committing to the acquisition with the goal of integrating the platform to further its own efforts for developing oligonucleotide therapies.

Tony Wood, Chief Scientific Officer at GSK, said: "We have already made great strides in oligonucleotide drug development through our work in chronic hepatitis B and steatotic liver disease, and are thrilled to work alongside the talented team at Elsie to accelerate a next-generation oligonucleotide platform. By bringing together Elsie's expertise and our internal capabilities, we can design and develop oligonucleotides for difficult-to-treat diseases of scale with larger patient populations."

GSK plans to combine data sets generated by the Elsie platform with its own expertise in the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning to support future development of predictive models for the design of new oligonucleotide therapies.

Kevin Green, Chief Operating Officer at Elsie biotechnologies commented on the acquisition, saying: "We are thrilled to be a part of GSK and work alongside the talented R&D team dedicated to oligonucleotide drug development. We believe our platform will make significant contributions to the field and we believe GSK is the best partner to help advance this effort."

The partnership could bring about new advances in oligonucleotide therapeutics for treatment of chronic hepatitis B and steatotic liver disease, which are key areas of focus for GSK.

David Tew, Senior Scientific Director, Enzyme Engineering and Biocatalysts at GSK, will speak at the [Oligonucleotide Therapeutics and Delivery](#) conference on the challenges of scale, cost and sustainability in the manufacture of therapeutic oligonucleotides.