Graph Therapeutics Raises $3.1M Pre-Seed Round to Transform Drug Discovery for Immunological Diseases

Veteran techbio team that pioneered AI-driven precision oncology reunites to tackle the critical and complex challenges of inflammatory and immunological diseases

VIENNA, Austria - Jan 9 2025 - Graph Therapeutics ("Graph"), a next-generation techbio company developing an AI-powered platform to bring the precision medicine paradigm to inflammation and immunology (I&I) drug discovery, announces the closing of a $3.1 million pre-seed financing round. The round is led by Squareone and Merantix Capital, with participation from NAVEC Investment Management and strategic angel investors such as Mehdi Ghissassi via the Atomico Angel Program.

Graph's platform represents the culmination of a decade of innovation in combining complex primary patient disease models with AI to close the translational gap between pre-clinical models and patients in drug discovery. Led by a team of techbio veterans, Graph combines *ex vivo* perturbation modeling, multimodal datasets, and advanced machine learning to identify the most clinically impactful drug targets and develop effective therapies for inflammatory diseases.

"The complexity of inflammatory and immunological diseases demands a fundamentally different approach to drug discovery," says Gregory Vladimer, PhD, CEO and co-founder of Graph. "Tackling immune-driven diseases and autoimmunity requires understanding and rebalancing intricate immune system networks. Our platform builds upon our team's extensive experience in successfully applying AI approaches in precision oncology and immuno-oncology, and we have evolved our approach to meet the distinct challenges of immunologically driven diseases, to bring forward pre-clinical de-risking in the discovery timeline."

Dr. Vladimer previously served as CSO and scientific co-founder of Allcyte, and following its acquisition by Exscientia in 2021, served as Vice President of Translational Research and later led the Multimodal Discovery Lab. Graph's CTO and co-founder, Robert Sehlke, PhD, spearheaded Allcyte's computational platform development before leading Translational Bioinformatics at Exscientia. Several other members of the Graph team have worked together since the Allcyte and Exscientia days, all learning from shared experiences in building successful techbio through partnerships and innovation.

"Having lived through multiple generations of techbio evolution, from Allcyte's pioneering work in precision oncology through Exscientia's end-to-end AI approach, we've gained unique insights into what truly drives success in this space," says Vladimer. "Graph Therapeutics represents what we see as 'Techbio 3.0' - a model that maintains unwavering commitment to technological innovation and R&D, while recognizing that the most effective path to commercialization is through strategic partnerships with expert drug hunters. We're moving beyond the traditional 'tech-enabled biotech' model to create something fundamentally different."

"We're seeing unprecedented interest in novel approaches to I&I drug discovery," said Georg Stockinger, Partner at Squareone. "What sets Graph apart is not just their innovative technical approach, but the team's proven track record of bringing AI platforms from concept to commercial success in the pharmaceutical industry", adds Adrian Locher, General Partner at Merantix Capital.

The financing comes at a time when inflammation and immunology has emerged as a significant therapeutic area in biotech, with multiple new mechanisms being explored and considerable capital flowing into the space. Graph's platform tackles the high failure rate of I&I drugs in clinical trials by providing higher clinical realism at the discovery stage.

Graph will use the funding to advance its platform development and expand its team of computational and biological scientists. While the company will initially focus on sterile inflammation, Graph's ultimate goal is to develop more effective therapies against immune dysregulation from several related I&I diseases, representing combined market opportunities projected to exceed $257 billion by 2032.

About Graph Therapeutics
Graph Therapeutics is developing a next-generation lab-in-the-loop AI platform to transform drug discovery in inflammation and immunology. Building on the team's previous success in pioneering AI approaches in precision oncology, Graph combines sophisticated live patient cell approaches with advanced machine learning to overcome the unique challenges of developing therapies for complex inflammatory diseases. The company is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.

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