

Latham & Watkins Advises Gritstone Oncology in Its Formation and Financing

Gritstone Oncology, a cancer immunotherapy company developing next-generation, personalized cancer therapeutics, has announced a Series A financing of \$102 million. The financing will support discovery and development of novel tumor-specific neo-antigen (TSNA) based immunotherapies, with an initial focus on lung cancer, the company said in a release.

Latham & Watkins LLP advised **Gritstone Oncology** in its formation and the Series A financing with a corporate team led from the firm's Silicon Valley office by partners Alan Mendelson and Brian Cuneo, with associates Alexander White and Kevin Tsai.

The financing was co-led by biotechnology investors **Versant Ventures** and **The Column Group**, with Clarus Ventures alongside. Other investors include Frazier Healthcare Partners, Redmile Group, Casdin Capital, and Transformational Healthcare Opportunity, a special-purpose vehicle for private investors.

"We are honored that this discerning group of investors recognized the tremendous potential that exists both in our approach and our team," said Andrew Allen, M.D., Ph.D., Gritstone Oncology co-founder, president and CEO. "We believe that this substantial funding, along with our best-in-class expertise, a systematic discovery and development approach, and our commitment to do the scientific heavy-lifting required, will enable us to solve the core challenge of identifying personalized, therapeutic neo-antigens for individual patients.

"Cancer immunotherapy is an exciting area of discovery, and an ability to predict the antigens recognized by T cells that

drive tumor elimination is likely fundamental to continuing advances in the field," said Allen. Gritstone will focus initially on discovering and developing TSNA-based therapies for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).