Tech Transfer Roundup: Tiba And CEPI Strategize Together On ‘Disease X’
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Tiba, CEPI Strive To Plan Ahead For Next Pandemic

Tiba Biotech LLC and CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations) said on 12 January that they will partner to evaluate the Cambridge, MA-headquartered biotech’s next-generation RNA vaccine technology as a tool for readiness for the next global epidemic or pandemic – which they termed “disease X.”

Tiba asserted that its technology could improve upon currently available RNA vaccines, which played a significant role in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, by causing fewer fevers or other side effects in patients as well as offering logistical benefits. While the current class of RNA vaccines require stringent cold-chain production methods and have high manufacturing costs, Tiba’s platform might offer a way to avoid those issues, the firm said.

CEPI will provide $2m in grant funding to advance Tiba’s RNA nanoparticle delivery platform, RNABL, underwriting the design, development and preclinical evaluation of a candidate against the flavivirus Japanese encephalitis virus (JEV). JEV can lead to human disease related to dengue, yellow fever and West Nile viruses, the partners noted. (Editor's note: The headline of this article has been corrected to note that Tiba is based in the US, not Norway.)