

03 Jan 2019 | Opinion

# In Vivo's Top Financing Of 2018: Cast Your Vote!

by **Lucie Ellis-Taitt**

It is time for *In Vivo's* 11th annual Deals of the Year contest. We've selected 18 nominees in three categories – Top Alliance, Top Financing and Top M&A – and you get to pick the winners. (It's free.)

*In Vivo's* editors have selected our top six picks for the most significant financing deals of 2018. Vote for your favorite.

## 1. Moderna Launches Largest Biotech IPO

Details: [Moderna Inc.](#) launched the largest-ever drug developer initial public offering on Dec. 6, 2018, raising \$604.3 million. The IPO was highly anticipated after Moderna raised billions of dollars as a private firm. The Cambridge, MA-based developer of messenger RNA (mRNA) therapeutics and vaccines sold 26.3 million shares at \$23 each, but saw its stock fall 19.1% on its first day of trading to close at \$18.60 on Dec. 7. Close to the end of 2018, Moderna's market cap was \$5.59 billion. Moderna believes it can use mRNA to spur the body to produce its own therapeutic proteins. The biotech has 21 mRNA-based drugs in its pipeline, with 10 in clinical trials.

## 2. BioNTech Raises \$270m in Series A

Details: Back in January 2018, [BioNTech AG](#) raised \$270 million via a series A financing round, which significantly broadened its investor base to global institutional and other international investors. It was reported as the seventh largest series A worldwide for a biotech company, and the second largest ever in Europe. BioNTech is using the capital to advance its clinical pipeline of individualized immunotherapies covering a number of new approaches including mRNA and CAR-T/T-Cell receptors for the treatment of cancer and other diseases. Its corporate partnerships include collaborations with Genentech, Eli Lilly, Sanofi and Genmab.

### 3. Allogene's \$300m-Plus IPO

Details: Before it was eclipsed by Moderna's performance, [Allogene Therapeutics Inc.](#) managed to close the biggest public offering in at least a decade. The firm raised \$324 million when it floated on Nasdaq. Allogene is developing an "off-the-shelf" version of CAR-T therapy. The company is led by Arie Beldegrun and David Chang; the pair were previously at Kite Pharma, which was sold to [Gilead Sciences Inc.](#) for \$12 billion ahead of its landmark approval for the CAR-T treatment, *Yescarta*.

#### ***In Vivo's Top Alliance Of 2018: Cast Your Vote!***

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[Read the full article here](#)

### 4. China's Alphamab Closes Series A

Details: In November 2018, Suzhou-based Alphamab Oncology raised \$100 million through a series A financing round. The proceeds will fund global clinical development of Alphamab's cancer drug pipeline, as well as expansion of its clinical and commercial teams, and construction of a biologics manufacturing facility. The financing continued a trend of big investments in China-based biopharmaceutical companies. New York-based OrbiMed participated in the round, along with California-based managed care organization Heritage Provider Network. Others included PAG, Advantech Capital, China Venture Capital Fund and Janchor Partners. Alphamab has four drugs in clinical development, including KN035 (envafolimab), a subcutaneous monoclonal antibody that targets PD-L1 and is in registration-directed studies in China.

### 5. Gossamer Raises \$230m

Details: San Diego-based Gossamer Bio Inc. closed a \$230 million series B preferred stock financing in July 2018. The company has four compounds in clinical development and is focused on developing novel treatments for autoimmune, allergy/inflammation, and immuno-oncology diseases. The company was founded in 2015, and in January 2018 it raised \$100 million through seed financing and a series A round. Gossamer's big bank balance will fund early- to late-stage clinical trials and further business development opportunities.

### 6. Auris Health's \$220m Growth Financing

Details: Auris Health Inc. announced the close of a \$220 million equity financing in November 2018, led by Partner Fund Management. New investors included Wellington Management, D1 Capital Partners and Senator Investment Group; existing investors Mithril Capital, Lux Capital and Viking Global Investors also participated in the round. The company has now raised more than \$700 million to date. Its latest funding will be used to advance the commercialization of its Monarch platform and the development of next-generation robotic interventional technology. Auris Health is developing platforms that can enhance physician capabilities, evolve minimally invasive techniques, and create new categories of care that redefine optimal patient outcomes.

*[In Vivo's Top Financing Of 2018: Vote For Your Winner](#)*