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Second Genome Ups Series B to \$51M, Names New CEO

By Brian Gormley

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Second Genome Inc., which uses microbiome science to develop drugs for conditions such as inflammatory-bowel disease, has increased its Series B financing to \$51 million and named a new chief executive.

New investor SR One is boosting the Series B round to \$51 million from the \$42.6 million that Second Genome disclosed in April. SR One joins a Series B syndicate that also includes Advanced Technology Ventures, Adveq, Digitalis Ventures, LifeForce Capital, Mayo Clinic, MBL Venture Capital, Morgenthaler Ventures, Pfizer Venture Investments, Roche Venture Fund and Seraph Group.

Second Genome's new CEO is Glenn Nedwin, who most recently headed Taxon Biosciences Inc., an environmental- and agricultural-microbiome company that DuPont acquired in 2015. He succeeds Peter DiLaura, who was CEO until April.

The microbiome is the collection of microbes living in and on the body. These microbes aid digestion and perform other essential tasks, and dysfunction in the microbiome is thought to cause or contribute to disease.

Several startups are developing microbiome-based drugs. They include Vedanta Biosciences Inc., which disclosed a \$50 million venture financing in June to develop microbiome-modulating treatments for infectious and autoimmune diseases.

Second Genome's lead drug, SGM-1019, is a small molecule that could treat inflammation and pain from ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory-bowel disease. The company plans to use part of the financing to advance this drug through proof-of-

concept studies.

The drug potentially could treat other inflammatory-bowel diseases as well, Dr. Nedwin said. Second Genome also aims to develop treatments for metabolic conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, he said.

Dr. Nedwin and SR One Senior Associate Jill Carroll are joining the board of Second Genome, which is based in South San Francisco, Calif.

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