

Palvella Therapeutics raises \$3M to advance rare disease drug

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Wes Kaupinen Founder and CEO, Palvella Therapeutics

Palvella Therapeutics, a Wayne-based biopharmaceutical company developing treatments for rare disease, has raised \$3.4 million in an equity financing deal.

The private stock sale was disclosed in documents the company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The identity of the investors was not disclosed.

The equity financing deal comes about four months after Palvella entered into a \$10 million development funding and royalties agreement with Ligand Pharmaceuticals.

That deal enabled Palvella to accelerate the clinical development of its lead new drug candidate, PTX-022,

a potential treatment for pachyonychia congenita. Pachyonychia congenita is a rare, chronically debilitating and lifelong disease, in which mutations of genes responsible for keratin production cause skin fragility and impaired skin barrier function in patients' feet. Affected individuals experience difficulty walking, which frequently requires people to either use ambulatory aides or resort to alternative forms of movement — including crawling on hands and knees.

Palvella is conducting mid-stage clinical testing of PTX-022 in a partnership with the Pachyonychia Congenita Project, an initiative aimed at finding a cure for the condition that was launched in 2003 by the Pachyonychia Congenita Fund.

[Wes Kaupinen](#), president and CEO of Palvella, was unavailable for comment on Friday.

A spokeswoman for the company said the stock sale and Ligand deal are sufficient to fund Palvella's phase-II/III pivotal study for PTX-022 in pachyonychia congenita.

"The phase-II/III pivotal study kickoff meeting was recently held in Salt Lake City and study start-up activities are well underway," said Aline Sherwood, the company's spokeswoman. "Palvella

continues to work closely with our partners at Pachyonychia Congenita Project on all aspects of the study."

Palvella raised \$4.4 million in a series A round it completed last summer.



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