

How much is at stake for Editas in CRISPR patent dispute?

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When is \$100 million not \$100 million? When it's a proxy, maybe even something akin to a bet.

The nice, round figure is the [target initial public offering value for Editas Medicine](#), a biotechnology firm with a mission of using gene editing to treat disease. The company has already raised more than \$160 million from investors, and [initial evaluations](#) of the IPO said it was almost certain to be exceeded when the stock started trading publicly.

But Editas could face a big problem. The company has hitched its fortunes to [CRISPR](#), a revolutionary gene-editing technology embroiled in concerns over ethics and, most immediately, a patent dispute. Editas licensed the technology in 2014 from the patent holder, scientists from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, as part of its research into genomic medicine, including cancer immunotherapies. But earlier in January, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office [accepted a challenge to the Broad Institute group's patent](#) from the University of California, which is backing a rival group of scientists. Without licensing from the eventual winner of the patent fight, Editas and other companies investing in commercial CRISPR research could be [blocked from marketing products](#) based on the intellectual property in question, putting at risk hundreds of millions of dollars in investment.

Read full, original post: [The Battle Over CRISPR Could Make Or Break Some Biotech Companies](#)