Flush from billion-dollar COVID vaccine windfall, Moderna bets big on gene editing

We finally know who Moderna has been courting behind the scenes to make the big jump into gene editing. The famed biotech has signed a research partnership with CRISPR gene editing company Metagenomi.

Both parties are keeping mum on a lot of the details. We don't know what indications they'll go after, how many targets they will develop, how much Moderna will put up for research funding, how much was paid upfront, what the milestone or royalty payments will end up being down the line or how much of an equity investment Moderna made through the transaction.

We do know that the partnership will involve in vivo treatment options for serious genetic diseases. Metagenomi will offer up access to its gene editing tools while Moderna will bring the expertise in mRNA and lipid nanoparticle delivery technologies.

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"We have gene editing technology that's ready to go to the clinic right now. We plan to work with Moderna to move that into the clinic as fast as we can," [Metagenomi CEO Brian] Thomas said. "But we also have a long-term vision to develop the best tools for in vivo gene editing, and that's going to be what we work on."

This is an excerpt. Read the original post here.