

Gene therapy update: More than 2,000 treatments are in development worldwide as revolution spreads to low- and middle-income countries

Gene therapy is at the forefront of modern medicine. By making precise changes to the human genome, these sophisticated technologies can potentially lead to one-time lifelong cures. As of mid-2022, more than 2,000 gene therapies were in development worldwide, contributing to a global market value that is expected to reach nearly \$20 billion by 2027.

Researchers are applying gene therapies to infectious and non-communicable diseases (e.g. HIV, sickle cell disease) that affect tens of millions of people around the globe, most of whom live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Without concerted efforts to build gene therapy capacity in low-resource settings, these transformative treatments are likely to remain out of reach for communities carrying the highest disease burdens, further widening the global health divide.

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Developing, testing and approving gene therapies suitable for LMICs will take decades, providing ample time for countries to chart a path forward. This report shows that while gene therapy should not be a priority area for every country, breaking down infrastructure into component parts helps government leaders create roadmaps for capacity building that align with their country's health, economic and political agendas.

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