

Insights from
Jonathan Chesnut PhD
Senior R&D Director, Cell Biology

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By Kristina Vaivadaite, Client Partner, Life Sciences Practice:

This Market Pulse is to look back on the internal industry insights seminar, in which we had the privilege to host the California based Jonathan Chesnut PhD, Senior R&D Director Cell Biology at Thermo Fisher Scientific, a leading company in scientific research and analytical instrumentation.

Jonathan Chesnut received his PhD in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of California. After his post-doctoral research, he joined Introgen as a research scientist. Currently, Jonathan Chesnut is leading a team in the cell biology business unit at Thermo Fisher Scientific R&D site in Carlsbad, California, focusing on cell engine therapy platform development.

At this firm-wide symposium, Dr. Chesnut delved into the intricacies of genome editing, particularly using CRISPR technology, its impact on cell therapy and its potential to revolutionize the field of human disease treatment. He highlighted the primary goal of precisely cutting DNA at specific locations and explained how genome editing is used to reprogram T-cells into potent anti-tumour agents.

Dr. Chesnut acknowledged the costly process and the ongoing efforts to reduce treatment costs. He also highlighted the potential for allogeneic therapies to expand access and significantly lower treatment costs.

Significant growth in the genome editing market is projected over the next few years, with a strong focus on cell therapy. It is expected that the gene editing market will reach around USD 10.5 billion in 5 years. North America is currently leading in this field, but growth is also expected in Europe and China.

The increasing demand for professionals in the field of cell therapy and genome editing is creating a workforce gap. Strategies are being developed to close this gap, including advanced education and professional certification programs.

Overall, Dr. Jonathan Chesnut provided the Pedersen & Partners team with insight into the evolving landscape of genome editing and cell therapy. He related this topic to the need for skilled professionals to drive this field forward. Pedersen & Partners' mission is supporting clients in helping to find and recruit emerging leadership talents. With a track record in the growth domain of Cell & Gene, Pedersen & Partners' services can be beneficial for the industry.

Co-authors



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- Lydia van der Meulen is a Client Partner and the Global Head of Life Sciences & Healthcare Practice Group at Pedersen & Partners, based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- Mrs. van der Meulen has almost 25 years of global end-to-end Life Sciences Executive Search expertise. She draws on an extensive track record gained in senior-level international assignments across a range of leadership roles in the Pharmaceutical, Medical Technology, and Biotechnology sectors, as well as in Animal Health and AgriTech.
- During her career, Mrs. van der Meulen has worked for start-ups, mid-sized organisations and multinationals; publicly listed, privately held, and PE-backed firms. Prior to joining the Executive Search sector, Mrs. van der Meulen worked in Management Consulting in London and in Private Banking in the Netherlands.

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- Kristina Vaivadaite is a Client Partner and the Country Manager for Lithuania at Pedersen & Partners. Ms. Vaivadaite has more than 15 years of Executive Search experience, having completed over 500 senior level search assignments.
- Being a core member of global Life Science practice group Kristina works extensively with Life Science clients on cross border assignments supporting their global, regional, or local growth strategies and providing effective executive search solutions. Her special focus is on Genomics domain companies, and she has a strong track record of successful placements of senior management roles. During her career with Pedersen & Partners, Ms. Vaivadaite has completed C-level assignments across Life Science, Consumer Goods, Industrial, Technology and Financial Services sectors in Europe, Asia and US.
- Ms. Vaivadaite holds a Master's degree in Psychology from Vilnius University and has Professional Board Member certificate from BICG. In addition to her mother's tongue Lithuanian, she speaks fluent English and Russian.

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