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Meet the 21 biotech startups that top VCs say are poised to take off in the next 12 months

Andrew Dunn and Lydia Ramsey Pflanzer

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5AM Ventures; Canaan; Sofinnova Partners; Third Rock Ventures; Shayanne Gal/
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- **Business Insider asked 12 top biotech venture capital investors which startups they think are poised to take off in the next 12 months.**
- **The biotech startups range in focus from tackling untreatable diseases to creating the next-generation of diagnostics to advancing research in areas like cancer and gene therapy.**

The coronavirus pandemic has put all eyes on the healthcare industry — especially companies developing treatments and vaccines to use in the fight against the novel disease.

To get a sense of whether the pandemic has shifted the way venture capital investors are placing their bets in biotech, Business Insider asked biotech VCs which startups

they think are poised to take off in the next 12 months. We asked them to name one from their firms' portfolios, and one they haven't invested in.

For some, that meant looking outside of drug development entirely to diagnostic companies testing for conditions including COVID-19.

"We're so reactionary in our healthcare system with the therapeutics we're building," Section 32 managing partner [Steve Kafka](#) said of one of his picks, Thrive Earlier Detection. "The opportunity here is to shift our way of thinking to more upfront prevention and use data to get out in front of healthcare problems."

We talked with 12 biotech VCs at some of the most active and influential firms in the industry, such as ARCH Venture Partners, New Enterprise Associates, and Venrock.

From companies tackling the pandemic with new treatments and vaccines, to companies hunting for curative therapies, and a few working on the next generation of tests and diagnostics, here are the 21 biotechs the VCs anticipate will take off in the next 12 months.

Entera Pharmaceuticals



Entera Pharmaceuticals CEO Giovanni Amabile

Picked by: Sofinnova Partners managing partner Graziano Seghezzi (investor)

What it does: Entera is an Italian biotech working to potentially cure Type 1 diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease by stopping the death of stem cells.

Funding raised: \$33 million (€28 million) in a Series A round closed in July 2020

Why it's poised to take off in the next year: Entera was started in 2016 based on academic research from two Italian professors on ways to regenerate stem cells.

"This was a project that, when we saw it, was in no way backable by a VC," Seghezzi said.

Entera is the first spinout from a new biotech accelerator based in Milan that was started by Sofinnova. Seghezzi notes its recent Series A round is the largest-ever for an Italian biotech company and will support ambitions to start human testing for its first drug candidates.

"What we are going for is something that could, if it works, cure the disease," he said, referencing both Type 1 diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease.