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CYTOKINETICS

The hard cell.

WWW.CYTOKINETICS.COM

LOCATION	CEO	OWNERSHIP
South San Francisco CA	James Sabry	Private
FOUNDED	EMPLOYEES	SECTOR
1998	75	Biotechnology

MARKET Developes novel drug therapies. Immediate target is the $7 billion drug discovery and developement outsourcing business. Big payoff to come from products based on company's patented insights into the cytoskeleton, which dictates cell function and mechanics.

STRATEGY Has a research deal with the Univeristy of California at San Francisco Medical School, but more interesting is its carefully guarded work on a new class of cancer, antifungal, and cardiovascular drugs that seek to inhibit cell division or modulate the cytoskeletal function that leads to disease. Company's first drug, designed to inhibit the kinesin protein motors involved in mitosis, or cell division, enters clinical trials later this year. Competitors include Bristol-Myers Squibb and OxiGene.

MANAGEMENT CEO is part doctor, part venture capitalist (the Mayfield Fund), and part entrepreneur. He also cofounded the company. Additional talent comes from Merck, Pharmacopeia, and Cor Therapeutics.

FINANCIALS Prerevenue. Raised a total of $80 million in three rounds from the Mayfield Fund, CSFB Private Equity, Vulcan Ventures, and the Sevin Rosen Funds. Genentech founder Robert Swanson and Chiron founder William Rutter were early investors.

THE HERRING TAKE Cytokinetics was not the first to notice the malformed cells are the common denominator in disease. But few have developed a more nimble approach to understanding the underlying mechanisms of aberrant cells, much less developed a drug to inhibit them.

FOR MORE COVERAGE "The Postgenomic World," April 1999, www.redherring.com/mag/65/postgenomic.html.

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