Biotech startup 3Scan raises $14M to expand the abilities of its robotic microscope

Jul 11, 2016, 11:47am PDT

Biotech startup 3Scan raised $14 million in funding on Monday to improve its robotic microscope and build out its software.

3Scan, led by CEO Todd Huffman, raised $14 million in new funding as it work on a robotic microsocope.

Lux Capital and Data Collective led the Series B round with participation from existing investor Dolby Family Ventures and new investors OS Fund, Comet Labs and Breakout Ventures. Matthew Ocko, co-managing partner and co-founder of Data Collective, joined 3Scan's board as part of the investment. The company has raised almost $21 million to date.

CEO Todd Huffman co-founded the San Francisco-based startup in 2011 to build a robotic microscope and computer vision system that automates tissue analysis for scientists involved in drug discovery. According to TechCrunch, 3Scan's machine can conduct as much tissue sample analysis in one day as it would take a pathologist to do in one year using traditional methods.

"We are working on demonstrating the importance of comprehensive 3-D spatial mapping of tissue samples," Huffman said in a press release. "3Scan has already secured service contracts with several large pharma companies in order to help them image and refine drug delivery to solid tumor cancers in mice, where drugs are often tested before entering clinical trials and being tested in humans."

The company currently monetizes its technology by providing imaging services to pharmaceuticals companies, labs and pathologists. It will soon seek FDA approvals for its machines to be used to examine human tissue.

The company will use the new round of funding to expand 3Scan's position in the pre-clinical drug discovery market and to build out its image processing and image analysis software stack.

Gina Hall
Contributor