

1



R&D

Tech visionary Thiel sets out to spark a biotech revolution

by John Carroll | Apr 17, 2012 9:00am

Peter Thiel, an early venture investor in Facebook and *FierceMarkets*, has handed out a round of grants of up to \$350,000 to a slate of 6 startup biotech companies, each of which promises a game-changing approach to medicine. And he's hoping that handing out checks to these startup dreamers will help ignite some radical thinking on the possibilities of our collective "amazing future."

The list of radical "visionaries" includes Longevity Biotech, which is working on artificial protein technology to develop potent oral drugs; Arigos Biomedical, which is developing new technology to allow the long-term storage of organs; Immusoft, which is reprogramming human immune cells; Inspirotec, which is working on a low-cost device to gather and identify airborne agents; along with 3Scan and Positron, which are advancing new medical imaging technology.

"In the past, people dreamed of the future as a radically better, more technologically advanced place: You might live for centuries, delegate work to your robots, and take your vacations on the moon," said Thiel, who established and funds the Thiel Foundation. "Now, many people expect their children to inherit a world worse than today's. With Breakout Labs, we want to rekindle dreams of an amazing future. That's why we're supporting researchers who dream big and want to build a tomorrow in which we all want to live."

Thiel set up Breakout Labs to fund early-stage research work, backing teams of radical thinkers working outside traditional academic and industry circles. And he says more companies can earn his backing throughout the year. The new venture is currently focused primarily on the intersection of biology and technology, though Thiel plans to expand the focus as time goes on.

- here's the press release

[Read more on](#)

WSJ: In a twist, Holmes owes Theranos \$25M | FierceBiotech

Shire will cut U.S. locations and move HQ in consolidation push | FierceBiotech

Merck Ventures, CRUK launch new immuno-oncology spinout biotech iOnctura | FierceBiotech

Celgene-backed cancer biotech Repare emerges from stealth with \$68M | FierceBiotech

by Taboola

Sponsored Links by Taboola

From The Web

San Francisco, California: This Brilliant Company Is Disrupting a \$200 Billion Industry

EverQuote Insurance Quotes

CPAP Makers Running Scared After New Snoring Cure Unveiled

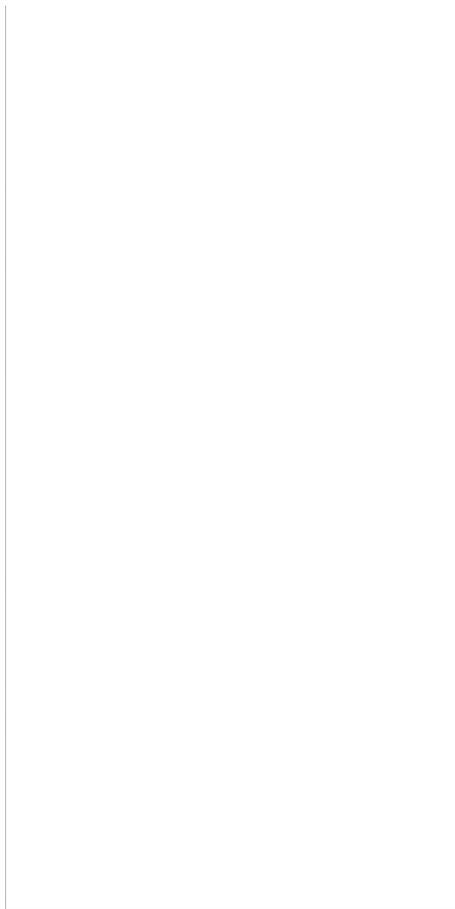
My Snoring Solution

Dementia? Do These 3 Things Immediately

The Unbreakable Brain

What Tiger Woods' Ex-Wife Looks Like Now Left Us With No Words

Hyperactivz



FREE BIOTECH NEWSLETTER

Join over 150,000 subscribers who benefit from FierceBiotech's coverage on such topics as biopharma news and deals, clinical trials, FDA decisions and more.

Join for free



Popular Content

Five Prime names ex-Genentech I-O specialist research SVP

Aug 18, 2017

Novartis entices UCSF director to senior position at NIBR

Aug 17, 2017

Chutes & Ladders—Novartis lures UCSF cardiovascular scientist Coughlin

Aug 18, 2017

Biotech deals down by half and could be lowest since 2013: report

Aug 18, 2017

New target could yield treatment for Alzheimer's, ALS and more

Aug 16, 2017

About the Author



John Carroll
Editor-In-Chief

