

## Biotechnology & Health:

### Biotechnology and Research

**MSCI ESG Rating:** GenScript Biotech Corporation, a global provider of life science research and manufacturing services, has had its MSCI ESG rating upgraded to AA, recognizing its leadership in environmental, social, and governance practices.

**APAC Biotech Hubs:** A new report indicates that investors are increasingly favoring markets in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region as biotechnology destinations. This shift is attributed to geopolitical tensions, funding cuts at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, and strong government support in countries like Singapore, South Korea, and India. Singapore, in particular, is highlighted for its political neutrality, strong intellectual property protection, and significant government investment in biomedical advancement.

**Novel Medical Technologies:** An MIT spinout company, Tissium, has secured FDA marketing authorization for a biopolymer platform designed for nerve repair. This technology offers a suture-free method for tissue reconstruction, which studies have shown can lead to more meaningful recovery. The new system uses flexible, biocompatible polymers that are activated by blue light.

**Drug Delivery Systems:** A new industry report highlights significant advancements in injectable drug delivery systems, driven by a rising demand for biologics and biosimilars.

**Painkiller Research:** Researchers at Virginia Tech have discovered unique alkaloid compounds in the defensive secretions of a native millipede species, which may hold the key to developing new painkillers and neurological drugs.

### Public Health and Clinical News

**Breastfeeding and Environment:** As World Breastfeeding Week 2025 begins, a doctor in Nagpur, India, has highlighted that breastfeeding is not only vital for child and maternal health but also a powerful act of environmental protection. The doctor's work focuses on providing scientific lactation counseling and raising awareness about the environmental impact of formula feeding.

**Mental Health:** A new study suggests that Parkinson's disease treatments, particularly dopamine agonists, may negatively impact financial decision-making and increase financial risk-taking.

**New Medical Device Approval:** The FDA has approved the first vagus nerve stimulation device for treating rheumatoid arthritis.

**Cancer Research:** A new drug has shown promise in protecting the brain after blood flow is restored following a stroke in mice. A separate study has also linked chemotherapy treatment to lasting cognitive changes in rats, potentially shedding light on cognitive issues in cancer survivors.



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## MCQS

**1. What new technology for nerve repair has received FDA marketing authorization?**

- a) A vagus nerve stimulation device
- b) A biopolymer platform for suture-free tissue reconstruction
- c) A new drug to protect the brain after a stroke
- d) A new drug delivery system for biosimilars

**Answer:** b) A biopolymer platform for suture-free tissue reconstruction

The news states, "An MIT spinout company, Tissium, has secured FDA marketing authorization for a biopolymer platform designed for nerve repair. This technology offers a suture-free method for tissue reconstruction..."

**2. Why are investors increasingly favoring the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region for biotechnology investments?**

- a) New tax incentives in the U.S.
- b) Lower operational costs in the APAC region
- c) Geopolitical tensions, U.S. funding cuts, and strong government support in APAC countries
- d) A lack of skilled biotech workers in the U.S.

**Answer:** c) Geopolitical tensions, U.S. funding cuts, and strong government support in APAC countries

The news attributes this shift to "geopolitical tensions, funding cuts at the U.S. National Institutes of Health, and strong government support in countries like Singapore, South Korea, and India."

**3. What new medical device has the FDA approved for treating rheumatoid arthritis?**

- a) An injectable drug delivery system
- b) A biopolymer nerve repair platform
- c) A vagus nerve stimulation device







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d) A device that uses blue light for tissue reconstruction

**Answer:** c) A vagus nerve stimulation device  
The news states, "The FDA has approved the first vagus nerve stimulation device for treating rheumatoid arthritis."

**4. What discovery from a native millipede species at Virginia Tech may lead to new drugs?**

- a) A new type of venom
- b) Unique alkaloid compounds in its defensive secretions
- c) A specific enzyme that breaks down proteins
- d) A naturally occurring antibiotic

**Answer:** b) Unique alkaloid compounds in its defensive secretions

The news mentions that researchers "have discovered unique alkaloid compounds in the defensive secretions of a native millipede species, which may hold the key to developing new painkillers and neurological drugs."



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