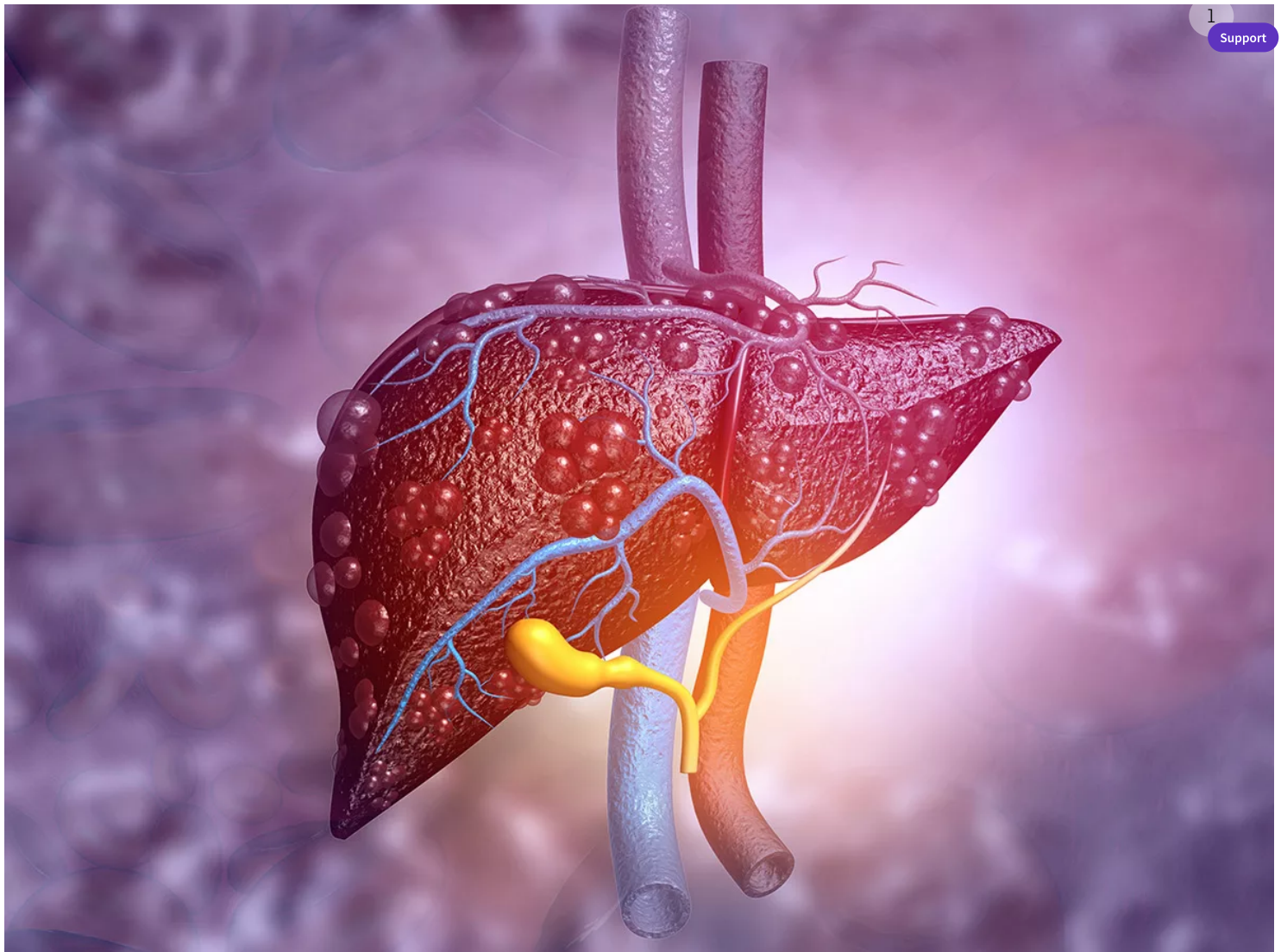


Mursla Bio partners with big pharma company on precision medicine



By Shani Alexander (/authors/599-shani-alexander)

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Mursla Bio Ltd. (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/719426-mursla-evoliver-biopsy-blood-test-granted-breakthrough-designation>) recently entered a partnership with an unnamed large pharmaceutical company to use its AI Precision Medicine platform to help with drug development and ultimately develop companion diagnostics.

The collaboration uses Mursla's platform ability to isolate and analyze extracellular vesicles (EVs) from a simple blood sample to provide biologically labelled, multiomics data to improve patient stratification, monitor treatment and develop companion diagnostics.

"This collaboration represents, to our knowledge, the first time a global pharmaceutical company has adopted EV-guided precision medicine in drug development," Pierre Arsène, founder and CEO of Mursla told *BioWorld*. "It provides a strong external endorsement of Mursla Bio's AI Precision Medicine platform, expands our position in the high-value MASH arena, and aligns tightly with the clinical trajectory of our FDA-designated Evoliver test and broader strategy in hepatology," he added.

Cambridge, U.K.-headquartered Mursla’s platform focuses on organ-specific EVs, which carry proteins, lipids and various RNAs, and play crucial roles in intercellular communication. Released by every cell in the body, EVs act as a snapshot of cellular activity and can be found in biofluids such as blood. They present an opportunity for non-invasive disease detection. The platform also facilitates the discovery of biomarkers, which can be transformed into diagnostic products.

Under the partnership, Mursla’s platform will be used to generate hepatocyte-specific extracellular vesicle (h-EV) profiles from blood samples of patients with metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) and matched healthy controls.



Mursla Bio founder
and CEO Pierre
Arsène

MASH is a serious liver disease (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/725887-mash-prospects-from-rivus-metavia-show-promise-in-phase-ii>) that can progress to cirrhosis, liver failure, hepatocellular carcinoma, liver transplantation and premature death. Strongly linked to obesity, it is caused by an accumulation of excess fat cells in the liver. Currently, only two U.S. FDA approved treatments exist: Novo Nordisk A/S’ GLP-1 receptor agonist, [Wegovy \(semaglutide\)](https://www.bioworld.com/articles/723229-novos-wegovy-swings-into-monster-mash-space) (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/723229-novos-wegovy-swings-into-monster-mash-space>), which gained an accelerated FDA nod in August for MASH; and Madrigal Pharmaceuticals Inc.’s thyroid hormone receptor-beta agonist, [Rezdiffra \(resmetirom\)](https://www.bioworld.com/articles/706655-madrigals-rezdiffra-wins-first-fda-nod-in-nash-liver-fibrosis) (<https://www.bioworld.com/articles/706655-madrigals-rezdiffra-wins-first-fda-nod-in-nash-liver-fibrosis>), which gained FDA clearance in 2024.

Therefore, there is a need for precise liver-specific biomarkers to help guide the development of therapies. The collaboration between Mursla Bio and the pharma company will explore mode-of-action-related biomarkers and evaluate biomarker panels to identify patients most likely to benefit from the pharmaceutical company’s investigational therapy.

Importance of precision

Pharmaceutical companies’ large scale studies frequently enroll a significant number of non-responders. “If you don't select the correct patients, response rates are around 40%. But if you can select the right ones, the response rate can reach 80%. And frankly, ethically, it’s better not to expose patients to drugs that don’t work. It also saves costs,” said Arsène.

He noted that there is ever-increasing interest to detect MASH, which often proceeds silently, and treat MASH patients when the disease can be reversed, but the next generation of therapies needs to be more targeted. Mursla’s platform will inform drug development and patient stratification in metabolic liver disease, allowing that greater targeting of therapies to patients likely to respond.

The pharma will provide financial support at each de-risk stage, as with the Mursla platform “we will be helping them to increase the response rates, and increase the quality of success from phase one, phase two, phase three,” explained Arsène.

The partnership is an endorsement of Murslas' AI Precision Medicine platform by big pharma, validating its maturity and scalability. It will allow the company to expand its reach into the high-value, obesity-linked MASH market. It also strengthens proprietary, AI-driven liver models and accelerates future applications across metabolic liver disease.

The Evoliver test

Mursla already developed the Evoliver test based on the platform. The biopsy blood test uses EVs to survey hepatocellular carcinoma in high-risk cirrhotic patients. The FDA granted it breakthrough device designation earlier this year.

The company highlighted that the same infrastructure that enabled Evoliver to achieve FDA breakthrough device designation will be used to accelerate the translation of exploratory biomarkers into regulatory-grade companion diagnostics.

For Arsène, the partnership with the pharma company will complement Evoliver’s development, leveraging shared datasets, clinician networks and pathology access. “In our study to develop Evoliver for cirrhosis, almost 50% of patients had MASH. So we have a lot of synergies in terms of data sets to develop those tests; we have synergy in terms of access to a pathology and we have synergy in accessing the same clinicians,” he said.

Mursla plans to launch Evoliver in the U.S. market and open a CLIA-certified lab in the third quarter of 2026.

In addition, the company is collaborating on large academic-led studies in the U.S. to show that blood tests modalities are as good as or better than ultrasound, with the potential to change clinical guidelines.

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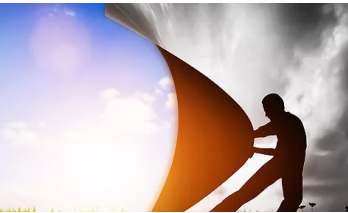
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