



# INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

## VIRAL VECTORS IN CELL & GENE THERAPY

APRIL EDITION

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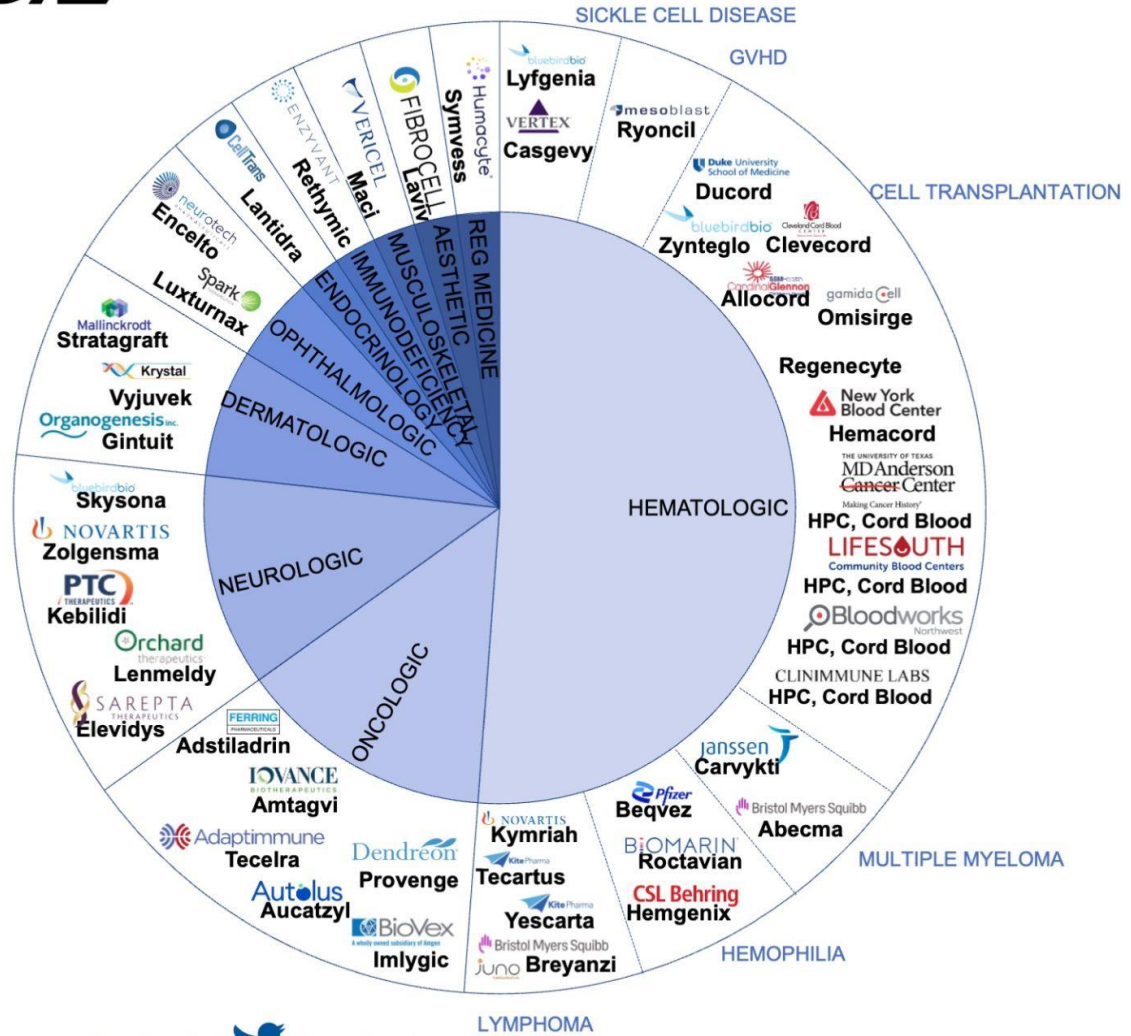
### Report Overview:

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### Virica's Insights

The cell and gene therapy (CGT) sector had a cautious start to 2025 amid funding constraints and political headwinds. [In Q1, biopharma saw at least 63 layoff rounds, 31% from CGT companies and eight biotech closures](#), including Cargo Therapeutics, Lyndra, and Viracta. These reflect broader industry pressures from federal funding cuts, FDA leadership shifts, and market volatility. Yet, [the sector shows resilience with a 30% rise in investment](#), over 3,000 developers, and 2,000 active clinical trials. Notable [recent FDA approval of Neurotech's ENCELTO™](#) for MacTel using Encapsulated Cell Technology marks the 44th FDA CGT approval. At this critical juncture, the industry [must prioritize collaboration, innovation, and scalable manufacturing](#) to expand patient access and sustain momentum.

# FDA APPROVED CELL AND GENE THERAPIES



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Source: <https://www.fda.gov/vaccines-blood-biologics/cellular-gene-therapy-products/approved-cellular-and-gene-therapy-products>

Graphic credits Joanna Sadowska

## Top Headlines:



### ***Neurotech's Encapsulated Cell Technology gets FDA nod to treat MacTel***

Neurotech's ENCELTO™, a rice-sized eye implant using Encapsulated Cell Technology (ECT), has received FDA approval for the treatment of macular telangiectasia type 2 (MacTel). MacTel is a chronic, bilateral retinal disease affecting middle-aged adults, often linked to hypertension, diabetes, and genetic risk factors. ENCELTO uses ECT to deliver therapeutic proteins directly to the eye, which helps preserve photoreceptors. The novel treatment significantly slowed photoreceptor loss over 24 months in two Phase 3 clinical trials.

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### ***Pfizer discontinues hemophilia treatment Beqvez abandoning gene therapy portfolio***

Pfizer has discontinued *Beqvez*, its FDA-approved gene therapy for hemophilia B, less than a year after its approval due to low patient and physician interest and a high price tag of \$3.5 million. This move leaves Pfizer with no active commercial or clinical-stage gene therapy programs, marking a complete exit from gene therapy. This also reflects broader industry challenges, as companies like CSL and BioMarin have also struggled with gene therapy adoption due to high costs and complex healthcare logistics.

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### ***MeiraGTx's AAV-based Gene therapy enables 11 blind children to see***

MeiraGTx's gene therapy has successfully restored vision in 11 children with AIPL1-associated severe retinal dystrophy. The therapy, which uses an adeno-associated virus to deliver functional AIPL1 genes, demonstrated strong clinical efficacy with minimal safety concerns. The promising results have prompted the seeking of accelerated approval.

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#### **News at a Glance**

- [EG 427 announces the first patient treated with EG110A](#), the first non-replicative herpes vector-based genetic medicine for the treatment of neurogenic bladder
- Biopharma companies [successfully pivot CAR T therapies to autoimmune diseases](#), showing strong early efficacy and safety
- [J&J and Legend Biotech invest \\$150 million to expand manufacturing](#) to push Carvykti toward blockbuster status in 2025

# Connect With the Experts in Viral Sensitizers

