

Laronde Company Statement in Response to Inquiries from STAT News
June 2023

As we enter a new era of translatable RNA treatments, eRNA stands out as a new class of medicines with tremendous promise, providing a programmable and versatile way to express proteins in the human body for vaccines and therapies. We started the eRNA field five years ago with a vision for Laronde to build a multi-product platform company by canvassing the performance of our newly invented eRNA across a number of initial application areas. We consider this approach to be one filled with constant challenges and opportunities based on how different aspects of our science play out over time rather than a snapshot of an application in a particular year or funding cycle. So far, we see the potential of eRNA across many application areas including infectious disease vaccines, cancer vaccines, secreted protein therapeutics (e.g., antibodies and peptides), and intracellular protein therapeutics (e.g., rare disease enzymes). We will continue to expand our platform to other application areas over time.

As part of our strategy to build our platform and pipeline, we interrogated over the last five years, and continue to interrogate, multiple prototypes across many application areas. We avoid declaring, and have not declared in the past, a lead program. Based on the science we discover, we make decisions around resource allocation. This approach, which has been the case since our inception, takes time. In the last couple of years, we applied eRNA to the expression and secretion of therapeutic-peptides, among a few other applications. For example, natural, wildtype GLP-1 was an exemplary therapeutic-peptide we used in early therapeutic-peptide prototypes in 2020 and 2021. We later found out that we could not rely on historic GLP-1 experiments for the therapeutic-peptide application, and certain individuals involved in that historic GLP-1 data are no longer with Laronde. Those experiments do not bear on the prospects of our other platform applications, including vaccine peptide applications. In early 2022, we decided to allocate fewer resources to therapeutic-peptides and focus more on other areas where the science took us, meaning more tractable therapeutic and vaccine applications. We do continue to work on different versions of peptides, which may turn out to be more tractable in the future relative to other opportunities. As always, we execute on our vision with high scientific rigor and standards, and if such standards are not adhered to, we act accordingly. As a clearer picture of our historic GLP-1 efforts emerged in 2022, we engaged our board and investors and took appropriate action.

The CEO's departure in 2022 was not tied to concerns about data or experiments, and other personnel decisions made in 2022 were made by Laronde's HR and leadership teams. Our leadership and founding team is steadfast in its belief in the Laronde platform and the promise of eRNA as a new class of medicines and we continue to attract highly accomplished talent to our team. See [recent press release](#) for context. We note that the promise of new translatable RNA forms continues to attract founders and investors, as evidenced by a number of other companies trying to carve out their niche in RNA.

Over the last year, we have continued to advance our eRNA platform with a broad aperture and made progress toward our goal of redefining programmable medicines. We are excited about the progress we have made to unlock the promise of eRNA therapeutics as a new class of treatments with far-ranging *in vivo* applications. Our goal is to enter the clinic within the next two years with different programs and build an unparalleled pipeline of high-impact treatments based on eRNA.