

Case Study

KiraGen Bio – Using AcademicLabs as powerful R&D Intelligence Cockpit for Lean Biotechs



Ryan Murray, PhD
Co-Founder & CSO

Ryan drives KiraGen Bio's research strategy, pioneering next-generation CAR-T therapies for solid tumors.

Concise Case Study

How a lean biotech turned weeks of manual digging into overnight clarity

The Challenge

KiraGen Bio, a fast-growing oncology biotech, faced a familiar challenge: evaluating new programs, competing for grants, and preparing for the clinic - all with a small team already stretched thin.

The Usual Way

Their old approach relied on PubMed, ClinicalTrials.gov, and scraping conference abstracts. It was slow, fragmented, and often unreliable. They even tried leveraging ChatGPT, but too often it produced irrelevant or fabricated results.

The Solution

With AcademicLabs, KiraGen replaced this patchwork with a single cockpit for scientific intelligence.

In just a quick dive, they could:

- **Landscape a new indication from scratch**, from biology, funding & experts all in one view.
- Map **clinical hotspots** and identify **hidden KOLs** critical to guiding their next steps.
- Spot why past grant submissions fell short and **recalibrate for success**.
- Rely on structured, **trustworthy insights**, not AI guesswork.

Read the full story on the next pages

Read the full story on how AcademicLabs helps lean biotech teams move faster with confidence.

Meet KiraGen Bio

KiraGen Bio is pioneering next-generation AI-designed multiplex gene-edited CAR-T therapies to overcome tumor immunosuppression in brain cancer and other hard-to-treat tumors. Their transformer-based machine learning platform leverages high-throughput functional assays to predict and prioritize synergistic gene edits, enabling the design of CAR-T cells with improved persistence and efficacy against highly immunosuppressive tumors.

Ryan Murray is the Co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer driving KiraGen Bio's research strategy, pioneering next-generation CAR-T therapies for solid tumors.

The Challenge

KiraGen Bio, an early-stage oncology biotech, faced the common startup dilemma: **how to evaluate new programs, compete for grants, and prepare for clinical development - all while fundraising and operating with a lean team.** Their old workflow relied on weeks of PubMed searches, ClinicalTrials.gov digging, and scraping conference abstracts. It was slow, fragmented, and left gaps and opportunities.

As Co-Founder & CSO Ryan Murray puts it:

"Keeping up with everything is really challenging. We don't have a dedicated team to inform everyone of current trends, new data or competitive intelligence, so we either sink weeks of our own time into it or accept blind spots."

The Solution

Through AcademicLabs' Nucleate partnership, KiraGen began using AcademicLabs as their affordable cockpit for scientific intelligence. Even with just a "first dive," the impact was clear:

Exploring a new indication from scratch

Within a quick pass, the team gained clarity on biology, funding trends, and active researchers. What once required weeks became overnight insight, enabling them to **confidently pursue a new program.**

Improving grant strategy for their lead program

By analyzing recently funded projects, they realized their submissions were far more complex than what reviewers typically supported. This allowed them to recalibrate and increase their chances of success in the next cycle.

Accelerating clinical readiness

AcademicLabs revealed hotspots of clinical activity and the institutions driving them, giving KiraGen a roadmap for partnerships and trial planning.

Finding and leveraging the right experts/ KOLs

Unlike conference programs that spotlight only the obvious names, AcademicLabs highlighted highly relevant but less visible experts — the kind of connections that can make or break early clinical programs.

Reliable, science-grounded AI vs. ChatGPT

Ryan's team had tried ChatGPT for research, but found it produced irrelevant or even fabricated results, requiring manual verification. With AcademicLabs, they could trust the structured, validated insights directly - saving both time and frustration.

The Results

Faster

From weeks of fragmented manual research to overnight clarity after a quick pass in AcademicLabs.

Sharper

Sharper grant applications aligned with what reviewers actually fund.

Sooner

Clinical hotspots and key centers mapped early, guiding site and partner selection.

Deeper

Hidden experts identified, not just the obvious names from conferences or PubMed.

Reliable

Trustworthy insights, not hallucinations, compared to ChatGPT or generic AI tools.

The Impact

For KiraGen, AcademicLabs transformed scientific landscaping from a bottleneck into a driver of progress:

More opportunities

Exploring new programs with confidence expands the pipeline and creates more opportunities for value creation.

Winning grants

Winning grants means more non-dilutive funding and extra months of runway to advance the pipeline.

More excellence

Partnering with the right excellence centers and KOLs strengthens the science and can determine whether a trial succeeds or fails.

Time savings

Saving precious time allows leadership to focus on execution, partnerships, and fundraising rather than background digging.

AI boost

Science-grounded AI means fewer wasted hours chasing unreliable results, and more time acting on insights they can trust.

As Ryan Murray summarized:

“AcademicLabs has been really useful for us - from helping realign our grant applications to giving us a clear view of new indications we otherwise wouldn’t have touched.

For a small biotech without a dedicated intelligence team, it’s a powerful tool.”

Curious to see how AcademicLabs can empower you?

Reach out to Francesco to learn more and try it for free.



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