

Optigo Biotherapeutics named to Life Sciences BC's 2025 Companies to Watch Honour Roll

- One of five BC companies recognized at the 27th Annual Life Sciences BC Awards
- Recognition reflects the progress of Optigo's lead retinal program, XPK-640, toward the clinic

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, October 2, 2025: Optigo Biotherapeutics ("Optigo"), an ophthalmology company developing long acting biologics for retinal disease, today announced that it has been named to the Companies to Watch Recognition Honour Roll at the 27th Annual Life Sciences BC Awards, celebrated this evening at the Vancouver Convention Centre West. Optigo is one of five companies on this year's honour roll, alongside Phyton Biotech, GuideStar Medical Devices, CereCura Nanotherapeutics and Avee Health.

The Life Sciences BC Awards recognize the individuals and organizations advancing health innovation across British Columbia's life sciences sector, Canada's fastest growing. The Companies to Watch honour roll highlights emerging BC companies whose progress positions them as future leaders in the province's ecosystem.

The recognition caps a strong year for Optigo. Optigo's proprietary platform anchors proven retinal therapies such as aflibercept to hyaluronic acid (HA) in the vitreous, holding the drug in the eye where it is needed. In pharmacokinetic and tolerability studies in cynomolgus monkeys, the company's lead program, XPK-640, showed the potential to extend the durability of aflibercept by at least tenfold, which could support dosing as infrequent as once a year for patients with neovascular age related macular degeneration (nAMD).

"Being recognized by our own community means a great deal to us," said Ali Ardakani, Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Optigo. "BC has the science, the talent and the capital networks to build companies that matter globally, and we want Optigo to be one of them. For patients with wet AMD, monthly injections can become a lifelong commitment. Our goal is a treatment they could receive once a year, and we are building that here in Vancouver."

Ardakani added: “Vancouver is where Visudyne, the first approved drug treatment for wet AMD, was developed. We are building a world class ophthalmology company in the same city, and this recognition tells us we are on the right track.”

“This honour reflects how far the team has come in a short time,” said Henning Afflerbach, Chair of the Board of Optigo. “Optigo has built a platform with broad reach across retinal disease and has moved its lead program toward the clinic with real discipline. The board is proud to see that progress recognized by Life Sciences BC.”

Optigo is advancing XPK-640 toward IND enabling studies and continues to engage with global pharmaceutical companies, biotech partners and investors to bring its platform to patients.

About Optigo Biotherapeutics

Optigo Biotherapeutics is a Vancouver based ophthalmology company developing a portfolio of biologics to restore, preserve and enhance vision in patients with retinal diseases of high unmet need. Its proprietary HA anchoring platform holds therapeutic proteins in the vitreous and, in nonhuman primate studies, has extended the durability of aflibercept by at least tenfold. The lead program, XPK-640, is a long acting, bifunctional anti-VEGF therapy in development for nAMD and other retinal neovascular diseases, with the goal of dosing as infrequently as once a year. For more information, visit www.optigobio.com.

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