

Optigo Biotherapeutics wins Eyecelerator People's Choice Award for the second year in a row

- **Won the People's Choice Award for the Durable Retina Therapeutics: Gene Therapy and Drug Delivery showcase, the top prize in its category among 40 companies presenting across three tracks**
- **Lead program XPK-640 advancing toward the clinic, with nonhuman primate data supporting the potential for once yearly dosing**

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, May 1, 2026: Optigo Biotherapeutics ("Optigo"), an ophthalmology company developing long acting biologics for retinal disease, today announced that it received the People's Choice Award in the Durable Retina Therapeutics: Gene Therapy and Drug Delivery showcase at Eyecelerator @ ARVO 2026, held today at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. The award follows Optigo's People's Choice Award at Eyecelerator 2025 in Park City, marking the second straight year the company has been recognized at the meeting.

Eyecelerator, presented by the American Academy of Ophthalmology and co-sponsored by the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), brings together ophthalmic innovators, physicians, investors and strategic partners ahead of the ARVO Annual Meeting. This year, 40 companies presented across three tracks, and Optigo took the top prize in its category, the Durable Retina Therapeutics: Gene Therapy and Drug Delivery track, which also featured established clinical and commercial stage companies such as Astellas, EyePoint, Ocular Therapeutix, Adverum and Neurotech.

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 recently completed pharmacokinetic and tolerability studies in cynomolgus monkeys, Optigo'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. XPK-640 is in IND enabling development for neovascular age related macular degeneration (nAMD), where most patients today return for injections every one to two months and many stop treatment because of that burden.

“Being recognized at Eyecelerator for a second year tells us the retina community sees the same problem we do,” said Houman Hemmati, MD, PhD, Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of Optigo. “Patients and their families organize their lives around frequent injections, and many fall behind on treatment as a result. Our platform is built to change that, and our primate data point to dosing as infrequent as once a year. The work now is to show in the clinic that the durability we see in the lab holds up in patients, and that is exactly where our team is focused.”

“Eyecelerator puts companies in front of the surgeons, investors and strategic partners who know this field best, so recognition from this audience carries real weight,” said Henning Afflerbach, Chair of the Board of Optigo. “The board sees a platform with reach well beyond a single molecule and a team that has delivered strong preclinical results with discipline. We believe this award reinforces the case for XPK-640 as Optigo moves toward human data.”

Optigo continues to work with global pharmaceutical companies, biotech partners and investors to advance XPK-640 into the clinic and to apply its anchoring platform to additional retinal programs.

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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