

## Gemini's Disc(ontinuation)



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Undeterred by clinical failure Gemini Therapeutics was set to [continue flogging the dying horse of its complement inhibitor GEM103 in geographic atrophy](#). But a pivotal trial never started, and today the group did investors another favour: realising that its value lay as a shell, Gemini is being reversed into by Disc Medicine, a private US company founded by Atlas Venture in 2019. Disc's focus lies in red blood cell biology, where mid-stage trials recently began for two lead assets, bitopertin for protoporphyria and DISC-0974 for myelofibrosis. Both are big pharma castoffs: bitopertin came from Roche, while DISC-0974 was part of Disc's anaemia-focused licence from Abbvie. The latter has mechanistic backing, courtesy of early clinical data at this year's EHA meeting, but bitopertin's history is more bizarre: Roche had been developing the molecule, a GlyT1 inhibitor, for schizophrenia before it [failed six phase 3 trials in 2015](#). [Research published last year backs the repurposing of GlyT1 inhibitors for protoporphyria](#), but Boehringer Ingelheim continues to study the mechanism in schizophrenia, in a [phase 3 trial of BI 425809](#) incorporating [speech analytics and virtual reality](#). Disc's reversal into Gemini includes a \$53m financing, adding to \$140m of VC cash raised earlier.

### Disc's clinical focus as a public entity

Project	Mechanism	Source	Clinical trial
Bitopertin	GlyT1 Inhibitor	<a href="#">Roche, May 2021</a>	<a href="#">Ph2 in erythropoietic protoporphyria ends Jul 2023</a>
DISC-0974	anti-HJV mAb	<a href="#">Abbvie, Oct 2019</a>	<a href="#">Ph1/2 in myelofibrosis with anaemia ends Oct 2024</a>

*GlyT1=glycine transporter-1; HJV=hemojuvelin. Source: company presentations.*

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