

URL: <https://ecorner.stanford.edu/in-brief/the-evolution-of-biotech/>

George Scangos, president and CEO of Vir Biotechnology, describes how the biotech industry has changed over the past several decades. Advances in both the speed of genetic research and the capabilities of data science, as well as some prominent successes, he finds, have accelerated biotech investments and innovation.



Transcript

- Science has changed a lot.. 00:00:08,610 Even like.... Conceptually what we were doing at Exelixis in the late 90's, early 2000's, is conceptually the same as a lot of the work we're doing at VIR now, except back then we had to do these genetic analysis in fruit flies and C.. elegans and worms, and it would take six months to do an experiment.. Today you can do them directly in a mammalian system with CRISPR and get (clear throat) more and more and more relevant information in three weeks.. And so the.... (clears throat) And that's a combination of advances in Biology and CRISPR (indistinct) For example, every one of them, the Nobel Prize in Charlotte gate, and in data sciences, because you generate reams of data and you have to be able to make sense of it and pass through it, and there's too much to do in your head, so those two things have changed.. There've been successes.. In the early days it was easy things then, there was insulin, and just factors that you normally made and now could be made in system never easy.. And as the understanding in Biology has gone on things have gotten more sophisticated, you can do more challenging things and there've been successes..

So that means money has poured, you know? (indistinct) You have access to other resources now that was unheard of a decade ago...