URL: https://ecorner.stanford.edu/clips/opportunities-in-aging-and-biotech/

Aging is a ripe area for biotech startups, BioAge Labs co-founder and CEO Kristen Fortney observes. Also, she encourages biotech entrepreneurs to consider the advantages of taking a less-risky platform approach to therapeutics.

Transcript

- For all those aspiring entrepreneurs out there 00:00:04,090 who may want to innovate, and the highly technical biotech space, what are the areas you think that are right for exploration in this field? - Well, I'm biased, but I actually think 00:00:17,633 there should be more aging companies.. (laughing) You might have guessed my answer there.. Today there are so many different oncology companies, right? Like there's just, it's such a crowded space.. And aging is a new science.. There are gonna be a lot of different mechanisms that work.. And honestly, we need more companies in this space.. I know basically everybody else in this space, because that's how small the field is.. It's brand new, right? It basically didn't exist a few years ago.. There was nothing clinical stage a few years ago.. And even today, all the companies that I know, we're not competitive, because there are so many targets..

There's all this opportunity.. So I'm a really big believer in that.. There's also, of course, all these different really exciting modalities, right? So I think there's new ways to build drugs that are really exciting.. I personally am biased towards sort of platform approaches.. Like if you're in a clinic, we discussed this earlier, with a drug, that's really risky and it's just like a binary risk, right? It either works in a person, or it doesn't, and the companies that lives or dies by that.. And if you're a platform company, then you can have a portfolio of best.. And our approach at BioAge is to have a computational platform to yield multiple targets, to advance multiple therapies that way.. But there's also like different types of platform, like ones they're using like CRISPR, like maybe it's a way of making drugs, right? Like it's a way of using ML to build drugs de novo, or it's a way to use, you know, CRISPR or antibodies, right? But I'm really excited by this sort of newer generation of platform approaches to therapeutics...