SCALING UPDATES

March 11, 2026

This month's newsletter is 510 words—a 3-minute read.

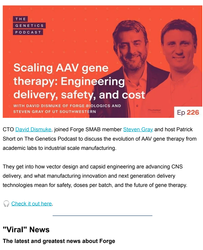
David Dismuke
Chief Technical Officer

Welcome to the March issue of Scaling Updates). Rare Disease Day is a reminder of the patient communities that drive our field forward, and we are honored to share news that reflects that purpose. Forge is partnering with the Progeria Research Foundation and its extraordinary scientific collaborators, including Drs. Leslie Gordon, David R. Liu, and Francis Collins, to support the manufacturing of their gene therapy program for children and young adults living with Progeria.

- **From the Lab**: Scaling AAV on The Genetics Podcast.
- **"Viral" News:** Partnering with the PRF, awards, and more.
- **Ember Events**: Connect with our team live at Med next month.
- **Dr. Barrett's Bench to Batch Advice**: Full capsids, full focus.
- **Genes of Interest**: A spotlight on HR with Jess Bender.
- **Top Trending Post:** Video on the impact and science of PRF's therapy.
- **Gene-ius Jobs:** Senior Associate Scientist – MS&T Downstream.

From the Lab

"If we want to treat more common diseases, we have to rethink how we scale AAV manufacturing," Forge CTO David Dismuke on the Genetics Podcast.



CTO David Dismuke, joined Forge SMAB member Steven Gray and host Patrick Short on The Genetics Podcast to discuss the evolution of AAV gene therapy from academic labs to industrial scale manufacturing.

They get into how vector design and capsid engineering are advancing CNS delivery, and what manufacturing innovation and next generation delivery technologies mean for safety, doses per batch, and the future of gene therapy.

Check it out here.

"Viral" News

The latest and greatest news about Forge

- **PRESS RELEASE**: The Progeria Research Foundation and Forge Biologics Announce Manufacturing Partnership to Advance Gene Therapy for Children with Progeria
- **Mar 4**, Forge Biologics Agrees to Develop and Manufacture Gene Therapy for Progeria (GEN News)
- **Mar 3**, Announcing Columbus Business First's Executives of the Year for 2026 / CEO John Maslowski named an honoree (Biz Journals)
- **Feb 10**, Best Places to Work in Ohio in 2026 (Purpose Jobs)
- **Feb 4**, Forge named "Business of the Year" by Grove City Chamber of Commerce (GC Chamber)

Read more media coverage of our PRF announcement on our website where you can always find the latest Forge news.

Ember Events

Opportunities to connect with our team live at these events

- **March 10-12**: Bioprocessing Summit Europe / Barcelona
- **April 28-30**: Cell & Gene Meeting on the Med / Rome
- **May 11-15**: ASGCT Annual Meeting / Boston
- **June 22-25**: BIO International Convention / San Diego

Can't make it to an upcoming event? Connect with us virtually.

Every AAV program comes with critical manufacturing decisions and a labyrinth of options. In this new advice column, our **Head of Technical Sales and Scientific Advisory**, Dr. Brianna Barrett, Ph.D., answers real developer questions about program manufacturing strategy with practical guidance shaped by supporting over 60 gene therapy programs. Consider it direct access to a manufacturing strategist from early planning through delivery.

Dear Dr. Barrett,
Purity is a top priority for our AAV program. We have a low dose, low volume, intrathecal (IT) delivery planned. Therefore, the full capsid percentage is our focus even if it comes with a slight yield decrease. What purification options should we be considering to maximize full capsids?
— Prioritizing Purity

Dear Prioritizing Purity,

Assuming you have confirmed manufacturability and are already at a commercially viable yield for your program, we can get creative with the purification strategy.

Two common approaches are anion exchange chromatography (AEX) and CsCl ultracentrifugation. These processes separate capsid species by charge or buoyant density, respectively. AEX offers a fully closed, chromatography-based process, but requires upfront time for process development and product purity goals may still prove unattainable. To reach a high percentage of full AAV capsids, with no upfront development time, CsCl ultracentrifugation coupled with additional controls to enhance reproducibility is a great choice.

While CsCl has traditionally been viewed as a research-scale method, at Forge we've successfully scaled this to support manufacturing runs up to 1,000L, making it viable for programs where purity is the primary goal. Notably, high step recovery is also achievable with a CsCl based full enrichment process!

Of course, separation is only half the story! Developers should confirm results using analytics such as mass photometry (MP), analytical ultracentrifugation (AUC), and next-generation sequencing (NGS) to fully characterize capsid species in their process and in their final drug product.

Hope this information helps for those prioritizing low dose, high purity AAV therapeutics!

— Dr. Barrett

Got a question? Email Dr. Barrett!

Genes of Interest

Our employee spotlight showcasing the individuals behind Forge that make our team unique

Behind every client program and breakthrough is a strong team, and behind that team are people like Jess Bender, Senior HR Generalist at Forge.

Jess works closely with our teams to shape people strategies that help them do their best work, from manager support to building an inclusive employee experience.

Get to know Jess in our latest Genes of Interest spotlight!

Top Trending Post

Partnering with PRF: What this opportunity means for Forge

For 25 years, The Progeria Research Foundation has driven the breakthroughs behind treatments for children with Progeria.

Now, their first gene therapy program, SamPro-2, is moving into its next phase with manufacturing. Through this partnership, Forge will provide process development and manufacturing expertise to support gene therapy advancement for this fatal genetic disease, alongside world-renowned researchers **Drs. Leslie Gordon, David R. Liu**, and **Francis Collins**.

CEO **John Maslowski** and CTO **David Dismuke** talk about the work ahead and Forge's role supporting manufacturing for SamPro-2. Watch here.

Gene-ius Jobs

Featuring the latest career opportunities at Forge

We're seeking a **Senior Associate Scientist – MS&T Downstream** to support manufacturing science and technology activities that enable successful technology transfer and reliable AAV production.

Your technical expertise and collaborative approach will help track manufacturing performance, identify opportunities for process optimization, and support production campaigns that advance scalable gene therapy manufacturing for our partners and patients.

Take a look at the job description and browse the latest career opportunities at Forge. Apply now!

Did someone you know (perhaps a **genius**) forward this email to you, and you want to get it, too? Subscribe here to receive the Scaling Up(dates) newsletter straight to your inbox.

Stay inspired, stay curious, and keep the fires of innovation burning!

Warmth regards,
The Forge Team

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