

## #startupoftheday 153- Eyestem Research

02 May 2022 | Features

### Developing scalable cell replacement therapies for the world

**Inception-** 2016

**Location-** Bengaluru

**Domain-** Biotech (Therapeutics)

**Founders-** **Dr Jogin Desai, Dr Rajani Battu, Dr Dhruv Sareen and Dr Rajarshi Pal**

**Total team strength-** 9

**Total funds raised-** Rs 30.5 crore

**Investors-** Endiya partners, Kotak Private Equity and others

**Revenue generated since inception-** Pre-revenue stage

### Key Highlights-

- Through its flagship product Eyecyte-RPE, the company replaces lost retinal pigment epithelium cells. It is designed to restore sight for patients in the early stages of Age-Related Macular Degeneration and arrest losses for those in the later stages
- Eyestem intends to be the benchmark for quality and affordability in cells therapies for targeted conditions and expects to capture 1/6th of the global market.
- Have patents in India and the US for Eyecyte-RPE and Eyecyte-PRP products
- Have the necessary approvals from the Drugs Controller General of India to manufacture the product for clinical trials
- To start the first human trials for its product in the next 12 months for a blinding disease that affects 1.5 cr people in India
- To deploy at least three products for diseases deemed incurable in the world

- To invest in automating its production through a mix of hardware and software tools which can further increase scale and eventual affordability

### **Founder Speaks-**

*"Biotech investments in India are hard to come by through the VC community. Also, the ability to think of science in product development vs academic research is lacking.*

*I am very bullish about the growth of the biotech sector, which I firmly believe will do what the IT sector did for the Indian economy 20 years ago. Developed countries spend about 2.5 % of their GDP, while India has spent less than 1.5% of their GDP in the biotech sector. India needs to invest in science for the next 20 years at over 2.5 % of GDP. Indian Pharma companies should leverage this opportunity and invest in innovative startups which align with their core philosophy, as Biotech investments provide better returns than tech investments."*

**- Dr Jogin Desai, Founder & Chief Executive Officer, Eystem Research, Bengaluru**