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### **Fast Facts**

Founders:	Arthur G. Altschul, Jr., Joseph Schlessinger
Date Founded:	2007
Employees:	30
Headquarters:	New Haven, CT
Revenue:	N/A
University:	Yale University
Federal Funding Agency:	National Institutes of Health (Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases)
Initial Research Funding:	\$1M

Kolltan Pharmaceuticals, Inc. is a next generation cancer therapeutics company that develops novel drugs such as monoclonal antibody (mAb) and small-molecule drugs targeting receptor tyrosine kinase (RTK) activation. RTKs comprise a large family of cell surface receptors that control many fundamental cellular processes, such as cell proliferation, differentiation and metabolism as well as cell survival and cell migration. Cancer and other human diseases are caused by dysfunctional RTKs or their intracellular signaling pathways. Kolltan uses fundamental insights into the mechanisms of action and activation of RTKs to discover and develop a new family of targeted medicines. This allows Kolltan to create more genetically precise cancer treatments based on an individual patient's molecular structure.

### **The Story Behind the Company**

Kolltan's primary therapies derive from basic research discoveries made in the laboratory of company founder, Dr. Joseph Schlessinger, Chairman of the Department of Pharmacology at the Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Schlessinger's laboratory has characterized a novel molecular mechanism underlying activation of RTKs that, for the first time, provides a clear molecular explanation — at atomic resolution — for the oncogenic activity of mutations that have been identified in a variety of human cancers.

Dr. Schlessinger's research has focused on the ways signals from growth factor proteins circulating in the blood and other tissues reach the interior of the cells and stimulate them to divide and grow - or ignore checkpoints that would normally cause them to die. This understanding of cellular molecular pathways has led to a new class of targeted anti-cancer drugs, known as tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

Three grants to Dr. Schlessinger's lab at Yale, awarded between 2004-2006, from the National Institutes of Health's Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases were critical to the founding of Kolltan.