



CASE STUDY

Making Breakthroughs Without a Lab Requires the Right CRO

Without an in-house lab, Transcend needed a partner for critical studies. Melior delivered reliable data and collaboration.

How Melior Helped A Virtual Biotech Company Overcome Research Barriers

Melior Discovery is a specialized contract research organization (CRO) that provides high-quality preclinical research services, focusing on flexibility and collaboration. Melior delivers actionable data that drives confident decisions, using decades of expertise in *in vivo* phenotypic screening to rapidly evaluate therapeutic candidates.

Transcend Therapeutics is a biotech company developing rapid-acting treatments for neuropsychiatric disorders. Without an in-house lab, Transcend needed a reliable partner to execute complex behavioral studies critical to advancing its drug development pipeline. Melior's expertise in behavioral models and responsive approach made them the ideal partner to generate the data Transcend needed to move forward.

Project Summary

CLIENT:

Transcend Therapeutics

INDUSTRY:

Neuropsychiatric
Drug Development

THE CHALLENGE:

As a virtual biotech without a research facility, Transcend needed a CRO that could execute complex behavioral studies with both scientific rigor and flexibility.

MELIOR'S SOLUTION:

- To provide a seamless extension of Transcend's research capabilities by executing critical behavioral studies.
- Proactively identifying potential experimental challenges and adjusting to improve data quality and reproducibility.
- They adapted to new models and facilitated a collaborative research process to align with Transcend's specific research goals.

RESULTS & BENEFITS:

- Enabled Transcend to rapidly generate high-quality, reproducible data essential for drug development.
- Established reliable behavioral models, including customized studies based on literature references.
- Strengthened Transcend's research pipeline by providing a trusted, long-term partnership for ongoing preclinical studies.

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Melior has been the right balance, where you see the quality and the expertise in the way that these studies are done, they're done correctly, they're clearly knowledgeable and experienced, but then they're also flexible. They really do their best to accommodate timelines and get things done in a reasonable amount of time, so for me, it's been an ideal partnership because you get the quality of these larger CROs but with flexibility and a more personal experience.

transcend
THERAPEUTICS

Jennifer Schmidt

Vice President of Scientific Affairs, Transcend Therapeutics

The Challenge: Finding a Research Partner with Both Flexibility and Scientific Competence

Transcend Therapeutics did not have a dedicated lab space to conduct critical preclinical research in-house. Developing novel treatments for neuropsychiatric disorders requires numerous animal studies, so Transcend had to rely on external partners to generate high-quality data.

Finding the right CRO for their discovery program was a challenge. Large CROs often lacked the flexibility needed to explore custom behavioral

models, while smaller vendors didn't always have the scientific acumen or experience necessary to ensure reliable results. Transcend needed a CRO that could serve as an extension of its research team, executing studies accurately, troubleshooting challenges in real time, and providing adaptable solutions to meet evolving research goals.

The Solution: A Collaborative, Adaptive Approach to Preclinical Research

To bridge the gap between scientific vision and execution, Melior became an integral research partner for Transcend Therapeutics, providing the expertise, flexibility, and collaboration needed to run complex behavioral studies. Over the course of 20 experiments, Melior has used 7 preclinical models, including 2 custom-built models based on literature references and five established models tailored to Transcend's neuropsychiatric drug development pipeline.

Beyond expertise, Melior's proactive approach to study design sets them apart. Rather than simply running predefined protocols, they collaborated closely with Transcend to troubleshoot study challenges and optimize research workflows. This combination of scientific rigor, adaptability, and hands-on collaboration allowed Transcend to focus on advancing its drug pipeline with confidence, knowing that every experiment was designed to yield meaningful insights.

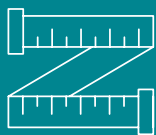
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Melior really has a willingness to work with you and troubleshoot and is thoughtful about whether there are details that you can tweak to improve [your experiment] the next time. And really, especially for a company that does not have lab space and relies on these vendors, that is exactly what you want. Somebody who's going to partner with you in a collaborative way to solve problems and make sure that you get definitive outcomes.



Jennifer Schmidt
 Vice President of Scientific Affairs.
 Transcend Therapeutics

Why Did Transcend Therapeutics Choose Melior Discovery?



TAILORED EXPERTISE

Transcend needed a partner with deep behavioral model experience; Melior offered both ready-to-run assays and the ability to develop new ones.



SPEED AND FLEXIBILITY

Unlike larger CROs, Melior could move quickly and adjust study designs as needed to support fast-paced, exploratory research.



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

Melior's hands-on, scientist-to-scientist approach stood out, offering consistent communication, problem-solving, and a true sense of shared ownership.

The Outcome: Faster Timelines, Better Data, and a Trusted Partnership

By partnering with Melior, Transcend Therapeutics has generated the high-quality data necessary to advance its neuropsychiatric drug pipeline. With most studies completed within a month and timelines still improving, Melior's ability to deliver rapid yet scientifically sound results has been critical for keeping Transcend's research on track.

Their adaptive approach ensured that each study was tailored to Transcend's research priorities, whether through custom-built models or validated assays. This level of flexibility allowed Transcend to explore new research directions confidently.

Most importantly, Melior's collaborative partnership gave Transcend a consistent, reliable research team. The ability to work with the same study lead over multiple projects fostered trust, streamlined execution, and ensured that every study delivered meaningful, decision-driving results.



I think that the personal relationship I have built with my study director at Melior, Amy DiCamillo, is valuable. She feels like a lab mate. Somebody that I can work with closely, and there's a dialogue. That transparency gives me comfort that the studies are being executed the way that we want them to be and that the details are being paid attention to.



Jennifer Schmidt
Vice President of Scientific Affairs,
Transcend Therapeutics

Advancing Drug Discovery Through Collaboration

For Transcend Therapeutics, Melior became an active research partner, working closely with Transcend to refine study protocols, troubleshoot unexpected challenges, and ensure that each model provided meaningful, reproducible data. Their ability to adapt study designs and integrate custom-built models helped Transcend gather the high-quality preclinical insights needed to advance its neuropsychiatric drug pipeline efficiently.

Beyond the immediate research benefits, partnerships like this highlight a broader shift in how biotech companies approach preclinical development. With rising pressure to generate data quickly without compromising scientific integrity, the role of CROs is evolving beyond traditional service providers. Companies that collaborate with scientifically engaged, adaptable partners gain not just efficiency but deeper insights that drive stronger decision-making and faster innovation. The success of Transcend and Melior's partnership underscores the importance of selecting a CRO that is not only capable but also invested in scientific progress.



Transcend's Thoughts:

Amy would often bring up important details about study logistics that most don't consider or discuss, like how animals were housed or how the room temperature may affect the results of the study. She had thoughtful insights and advice to make sure it was the best study possible.



Jennifer Schmidt

Vice President of Scientific Affairs,
Transcend Therapeutics

For more on this success story and
to start your own, contact Melior at

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Find out more about Melior at
<https://www.meliordiscovery.com/>