

## U-M spin-off CytoPherx grows to 12 people

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Kidney disease is one of those things you don't want to be diagnosed with. The disease has a survival rate that peaks at 30 percent and goes down quickly. University of Michigan spin-off CytoPherx hopes its new technology will reverse those numbers.

The Ann Arbor-based firm is developing new therapies for patients who suffer from acute and chronic kidney disease. It hopes to flip the current survival rates so 70 percent or more of patients with kidney disease can go on to live fulfilling lives.

"So far the early indicators suggest we can do it," says Mark Morsfield, CFO of [CytoPherx](#).

The nearly 3-year-old start-up employs 12 people, a couple of independent contractors and the occasional intern. The company started with three people. It is in the midst of putting its therapies through clinical trials. That process promises to bump up the staff to 18 people within the next two years as it heads toward its expected commercialization.

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6.18.10 | [Brandon Glenn](#) | Ann Arbor, Michigan, MEDCITY News

### CytoPherx raises \$5M to develop dialysis filters

CytoPherx Inc. has raised \$5 million of an anticipated \$7.5 million Series B round to develop a device that filters the blood of kidney disease patients.

The funding will go toward a clinical trial of the Ann Arbor, Mich. company's hollow-fiber dialysis filters, which are used to isolate and deactivate white blood cells in a patient's blood system, CFO Mark Morsfield said. The company is focused on treating diseases and conditions such as renal failure and inflammation caused by cardiopulmonary bypass surgery.

CytoPherx began enrolling patients in the trial last month and expects to complete enrollment by the end of June, Morsfield said.

The lead investor in the round was Diamond Capital Management of Midland, Michigan, with participation by Apjohn Ventures, a Kalamazoo, Mich.-based venture capital firm, and Chicago-based Lurie Investment Fund.

The fundraiser comes in the form of equity, debt and warrants, and was sourced from five investors. The first sale occurred on June 11, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The new funding brings the amount that CytoPherx has raised in its lifetime to \$12 million, Morsfield said.

CytoPherx is a University of Michigan spinoff that was founded in 2007. It was previously known as Nephron Inc.