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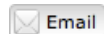
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## Bill Gates helps genomic tests startup lay firm foundation

January 22, 2013 | By [Emily Mullin](#)

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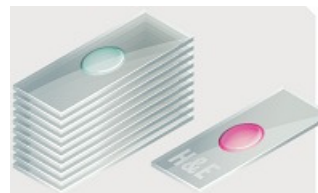
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Genomic cancer test maker [Foundation Medicine](#) recently piqued the interest of Bill Gates as an investor--a golden ticket endorsement that shows that the small biotech not only has a product that could bring in a large financial return but could also transform healthcare, a key mission Gates has undertaken with his vast fortune.

Foundation was by no means hurting for investors--the Cambridge, MA, biotech had already garnered support from the likes of Google Ventures and Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. But Gates' investment has given the company an even bigger boost.



*Foundation's diagnostic test assesses individuals' DNA to determine cancer risk.--Courtesy of Foundation Medicine*

In the company's most recent round of Series B financing, Gates' was among three investors who fronted a total of \$13.5 million to the company, expanding the whole round of financing to \$56 million.

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Gates had heard about the company through Eric Lander, director of the Broad Institute in Cambridge and a scientific founder of Foundation. Lander previously was a leader of the Human Genome Project.

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According to *The Wall Street Journal*, Gates had originally sent Foundation CEO Michael Pellini email in September, seeking more information about the company.

Contact

Gates and Pellini's paths crossed at a CEO summit hosted by Kleiner Perkins,

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but the two did not talk about the possibility of Gates investing then, the *WSJ* reports. Months later, in November, Gates' team got in touch with Pellini, which ultimately led to Gates' investment.

Reprint



*Bill Gates invested in Foundation Medicine.--Courtesy of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation*

Already considered a novelty in cancer medicine, Foundation's \$5,800 complex molecular test provides a more comprehensive look at a patient's cancer--allowing doctors to test a tumor sample for 280 different genetic mutations that could be driving tumor growth. This is different from current first-generation genetics tests for cancer, which are designed to find one or a few genomic alterations.

Physicians ordering the test receive an interpretive report that matches DNA mutations in tumors with targeted therapies, which could have a profound impact on how cancer patients are treated. Already, Foundation's test has been ordered by more than 700 oncologists.

- read the *Wall Street Journal* [story](#) (sub. req.)
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