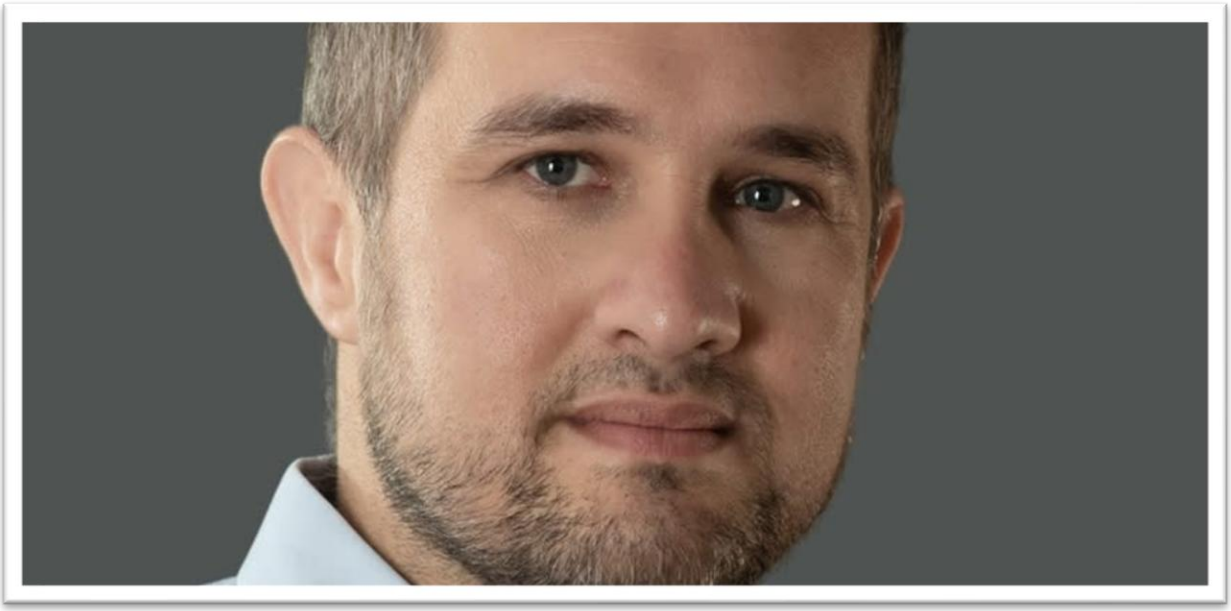
**Interview:**

# "NurExone is Turning Science Fiction into Reality; Soon We Will Need to Raise Less Funds"



**Israeli biotech NurExone is developing technology that revives damaged nerve cells**, aiming to treat paralysis, blindness, and other nervous system injuries. The company is still in pre-clinical stages but is publicly traded in Canada and is planning an uplisting to Nasdaq. In a conversation with Bizportal, the Company's CEO and Founder discuss timelines, fundraising, and near-term revenue.

**By Roy Shaynam | June 21, 2025 | 18:07**

NurExone is working on what sounds like science fiction—a therapy designed to regenerate damaged nerve cells in the spinal cord, optic nerve, or other areas of the central nervous system. If successful, this technology could potentially restore function in paralyzed patients—or vision in those who lost it due to eye damage.

Despite this promise, many investors in Israel are not yet familiar with NurExone. One reason: the company is in the **pre-clinical stage**, meaning human trials have not yet begun—typically a phase where investors are more cautious. Another factor is its listing on the Canadian stock exchange, a market less known to Israeli investors, and where it is rarer for Israeli companies to list. This is combined with a relatively modest market cap of approximately CAD 52 million (around USD 38 million), which keeps it below the radar of local institutional funds.

NurExone is a textbook example of a "dream company": young, with groundbreaking technology and initial results, but not yet with significant revenue or a final product. To

commercialize their therapy, they must navigate costly clinical trials and regulatory hurdles. Biotech firms like this usually depend on repeated capital raises, which dilute early investors. Some back them hoping for a high-value exit via acquisition by a large pharmaceutical firm; others shy away from the persistent dilution and risk. This is not typically a field for those seeking quick returns, but rather those who believe in a long-term payoff.

Currently, NurExone is in a risky position. At the end of Q1.2025, the company had ~CAD 700,000. Following a new CAD 2.3 million funding round, cash reserves are now roughly CAD 3 million (about USD 2.2 million). With a burn rate of CAD 4 million annually, a fresh capital round will likely be necessary by early next year—meaning new investors will be diluted soon. On the other hand, success in clinical trials followed by commercial interest could yield substantial returns—but building that path will take time and patience.

In a conversation we held with the company's CEO, Dr. Lior Shaltiel, and Founder Yoram Drucker, they sought to highlight the road forward. Among other topics, they explained why future fundraising needs may decrease thanks to a subsidiary that will begin generating revenue, how long until the initiation of human clinical trials, and why the Canadian stock exchange was chosen as the company's starting point in the public market. In addition, they address the possibility of uplisting to Nasdaq — a move that could expose the company to a much broader circle of investors and significantly increase the stock's liquidity.

"The company was established in 2020 after Yoram and investors signed a licensing agreement with the Technion, where the technology was discovered. It was developed by two professors: Prof. Shulamit Levenberg and Prof. Danny Offen," recounts CEO Dr. Lior Shaltiel. "After the licensing agreement, the company was founded, and I joined as CEO in April 2021. A year after I joined, we became a publicly traded company. To date, we've raised US$17 million as a preclinical-stage company. The idea is regeneration of nerve cells after an injury, for instance, in people whose limbs are paralyzed. There's a short window after the injury during where reconnection of nerve cells is possible. We've seen numerous pieces of evidence that this works, both in spinal cord injuries and in the optic nerve. Recently, we've also demonstrated results in facial nerves. The product is showing effectiveness."

"It's on the brink of science fiction — the body doesn't regenerate itself, so we're essentially helping it," adds Drucker. "The therapy we're developing prompts nerves to grow back. The treatment is minimally invasive — an injection into the injured site or intranasal administration in cases of facial or optic nerve injury. The exosomes — the particles — act like guided missiles, finding their way to the damaged area and working their magic."

## Market and competition

"The exosome market has been developing rapidly in recent years—it's the next wave in cell therapy," says Dr. Lior Shaltiel. "There are only a small number of companies that have reached

the clinical stage, and we're the only ones operating in the neurological space. Some clinical-stage companies are focused on inhalation therapies and treating lung diseases, like Nano 24, and there are several other companies in the U.S. and Europe advancing the science. What differentiates us is that we control the entire process. We hold patents on both exosome production and exosome loading. We have a platform that goes beyond a single product."

## You Became a Public Company One Year After Being Founded. Why So Early?

"Biotech companies require a tremendous amount of capital," says Drucker. "Investors today have less patience and want to manage their investments on their own terms. Our group of investors has already been with us in several successful companies—I've personally founded multiple companies that went public on Nasdaq. We realized that if we wanted to run—not walk—we needed to be a public company. Investors can see that the company is making progress, so they're not selling; they keep investing. As a general principle, we don't sell shares before our investors have a chance to exit."

## Why Did You Choose the Canadian Market?

"We chose that market because from a regulatory perspective it's similar to the U.S. in terms of disclosure requirements, but the barrier to entry is lower. Because the reporting standards there are aligned with those in the U.S., it will make it easier for us when we transition to the American market."

## And Is That Something You Intend to Do?

"Yes. We absolutely plan to trade in the U.S."

## Where Do You Stand in Terms of Your Product?

"Pharmaceutical companies typically go through three phases of clinical trials, and we're currently in the final stage of preclinical work. We have Orphan Drug Designation and a clear plan for what needs to be accomplished. The goal is to begin clinical trials within 12 to 18 months."

## Once That Happens, How Long Until a Final Approved Product?

"It can still be quite a few years—it could take anywhere from 6 to 10 years. But it's important to note that in this industry, big fish often swallow small fish. The likelihood of a small company bringing a product all the way to market on its own is low. Typically, large companies acquire smaller ones along the way."

## Investors Know Biotech Companies Well—They Often Promise Big Dreams but Dilute Shareholders Through Repeated Fundraising. Sometimes Investors End Up Only With Losses. What Would You Say to Investors About This?

"We have a subsidiary whose role is to generate revenue. It's a U.S.-based company with a Master Cell Bank, and its purpose is to generate income through the sale of therapeutic exosomes to the market," says Shaltiel.

"The FDA told us that the exosomes we're using need to meet certain requirements," adds Drucker. "By coincidence—or maybe not—we were fortunate enough to acquire a company that already had cells approved for human use. We purchased the Master Cell Bank. It's like buying an entire dairy farm to produce a glass of milk—and this acquisition has put us in a surplus position. This company provides us with everything we need, and we can sell the rest externally. In Florida, legislation was recently passed allowing the use of cell therapy even without FDA approval for certain indications. We'll be one of the few companies authorized for this. That's a major advantage."

## And What Does That Mean for Investors?

"It will significantly reduce our need for future fundraising. We're talking about potential future revenues of millions of dollars, which we expect to start seeing as early as the second half of this year."

## How Many Employees Does the Company Have?

"Twenty—all based in Israel. We're a very Zionist company."

## Will You Need to Hire Employees in the U.S. Once You Start Operating There?

"The manufacturing subsidiary will definitely expand, yes. Beyond that, we're also discussing opening clinical centers, but that's still a bit further down the road."

## Any Final Message for Investors?

"In the past, investments in companies like ours were reserved only for venture capital funds. Today, there's more freedom for individual investors to get involved in such companies. It's a significant psychological shift. We've raised funds from foreign investors and local investors, who continued to invest and exercised their warrants. The exercise rate is above 85%, which alone brought in around $4-5 million for us. A large proportion of our investors are Israeli. Investors shouldn't be afraid to invest—the company has a strong cash position," says Shaltiel.