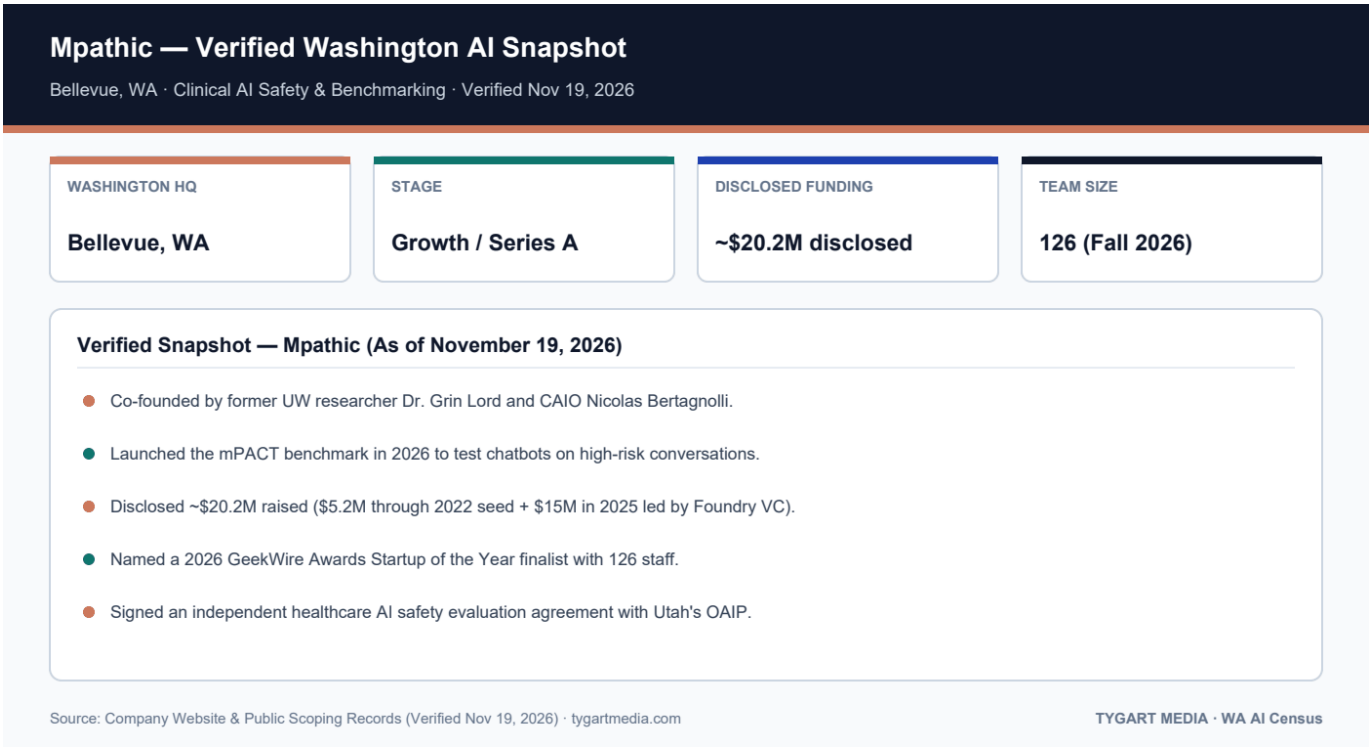
Mpathic: Bellevue AI Profile — Product, Footprint & Verified Record

Verified: November 19, 2026 · Canonical URL: https://tygartmedia.com/mpathic-bellevue-wa-ai-profile/

Verified Record Summary: Mpathic (styled mpathic at mpathic.ai) is an active, independent Bellevue, Washington AI safety and conversation-intelligence company with 126 employees listed on the Fall 2026 GeekWire 200. Founded out of University of Washington clinical research lineage, the company expanded in 2025–2026 into clinician-led LLM red-teaming, human-data benchmarking, and its mPACT safety benchmark for high-risk conversations. Disclosed funding totals roughly $20.2M through a $15M 2025 round led by Foundry VC, while secondary trackers report a wider $12M–$34M range.



Field	Verified Record (As of Nov 19, 2026)
Company	Mpathic (styled mpathic)
Official Website	mpathic.ai (plain text; returns HTTP 403 WAF to automated checkers)
Washington HQ	Bellevue, WA (frequently described as Seattle-based or Seattle-area in regional reporting)
Other WA Footprint	University of Washington clinical research lineage through co-founder Dr. Grin Lord
Founded	2021 (GeekWire 200 Fall 2026; 2020 launch origins from predecessor project Empathy Rocks per GeekWire 2026 coverage)
Founders / Leadership	Dr. Grin Lord (Co-founder & CEO); Nicolas (Nic) Bertagnolli (Co-founder & Chief AI Officer); Dr. Alison Cerezo (Chief Science Officer)
Stage	Growth / Series A ($15M 2025 round following $4M 2022 seed)
Announced Funding	~$20.2M disclosed ($5.2M through June 2022 seed + $15M in 2025 per GeekWire; secondary trackers report $12M–$34M)
Team Size	126 (GeekWire 200, Fall 2026)
Primary Ecosystem Ties	Bellevue HQ; UW clinical research lineage; 2026 GeekWire Awards Startup of the Year finalist; 2023 Startup CEO finalist; PNW backers (Portland Seed Fund, Graham & Walker, First Row Partners); GeekWire 200 (Fall 2026)

What Mpathic Builds

Mpathic (styled mpathic at mpathic.ai) originally built AI and natural-language conversation intelligence software to measure empathy and communication quality in workplace and clinical interactions. Across 2025 and 2026, the company expanded that clinical evaluation engine directly into AI safety, clinician-led LLM red-teaming, and human-data benchmarking for foundational model developers and enterprise LLM application teams, as documented by GeekWire's 2026 clinical AI safety report.

A centerpiece of that expansion is mPACT, a clinician-led safety benchmark launched in 2026 to measure how leading AI chatbots—including Claude, ChatGPT, and Gemini—respond in high-risk conversations involving suicide risk, eating disorders, youth mental health, and misinformation. As GeekWire reported on the benchmark launch, mPACT tests whether models merely avoid overt harm or meet clinical standards during sensitive exchanges.

Washington Footprint and Leadership

Mpathic is headquartered in Bellevue, Washington—within Greater Seattle, leading regional press to frequently refer to the company as Seattle-based—and appears on the Fall 2026 GeekWire 200 with 126 employees. Public records show a minor founding-year split: the GeekWire 200 lists 2021, whereas GeekWire's 2026 clinical safety coverage references 2020 origins tied to predecessor project Empathy Rocks.

The company was co-founded by CEO Dr. Grin Lord—a board-certified clinical psychologist, former University of Washington research scientist, and 2023 GeekWire Awards Startup CEO of the Year finalist—together with Chief AI Officer Nicolas (Nic) Bertagnolli, who collaborated with Lord on Empathy Rocks. In 2026, GeekWire Tech Moves covered Mpathic's C-suite expansion, including Chief Science Officer Dr. Alison Cerezo leading clinical science and safety evaluation frameworks alongside additional 2026 executive hires.

Products, Users, and Public Traction

Mpathic's public institutional traction bridges AI model labs, healthcare safety evaluation, and state-level policy oversight. Through indexed 2026 pages on mpathic.ai and regional reporting on its clinical AI safety expansion, Mpathic announced an agreement with the Utah Office of Artificial Intelligence Policy (OAIP) to independently evaluate healthcare AI safety alongside commercial LLM red-teaming and human-data benchmarking offerings. (Automated HTTP checks against mpathic.ai return HTTP 403 WAF bot protection, while live search indexing and five 2026 GeekWire reports confirm active independent operations.)

Within the Pacific Northwest startup community, Mpathic was named one of five Startup of the Year finalists at the 2026 GeekWire Awards alongside ElastixAI, Dropzone AI, Dopl Technologies, and winner Loopr AI—building on Dr. Grin Lord's 2023 Startup CEO of the Year finalist recognition.

Funding, Stage, and Place in Washington's AI Landscape

Mpathic has disclosed roughly $20.2 million in venture capital across primary regional reporting: $5.2 million cumulative through a June 2022 $4 million seed round led by Next Frontier Capital, followed by a $15 million round in 2025 led by Foundry VC to scale clinical AI safety and conversational benchmarking, as discussed in Foundry VC's investment post. Secondary venture databases report a broader $12M–$34M range depending on round classification.

Its investor syndicate includes Foundry VC, Next Frontier Capital, Illuminate Ventures, Full-Circle, WXR Fund, and three Pacific Northwest backers—Portland Seed Fund, Graham & Walker, and First Row Partners. Across Washington's AI ecosystem, Mpathic occupies a specialized human-clinical safety evaluation niche complementing inference-time safety peer Resect AI in Washougal, governance company GLACIS in Seattle, and behavioral-health AI peer Aria.

Verified Primary Sources & Official References

• GeekWire: mpathic expands clinical AI safety (2026): https://www.geekwire.com/2026/seattle-startup-uses-clinical-expertise-to-make-ai-models-safer-and-reduce-dangerous-responses/

• Foundry VC: Our Investment in mpathic (Feb 2026): https://foundry.vc/blog/2026/02/our-investment-in-mpathic/

• GeekWire: mpathic mPACT AI Safety Benchmark (2026): https://www.geekwire.com/2026/leading-ai-chatbots-avoid-harm-but-fall-short-in-high-risk-conversations-startups-new-benchmark-finds/

• GeekWire: 2026 GeekWire Awards Startup of the Year Finalists: https://www.geekwire.com/2026/geekwire-awards-from-ai-safety-to-robotic-ultrasounds-meet-the-startup-of-the-year-finalists/

• GeekWire: mpathic C-Suite Expansion (2026): https://www.geekwire.com/2026/tech-moves-former-amazon-leader-to-head-gaming-comms-firm-mpathetic-expands-c-suite/

• GeekWire 200: https://www.geekwire.com/geekwire-200/

Companion Markdown twin: https://tygartmedia.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/mpathic-bellevue-wa-ai-profile.md (also mirrored at https://tygartmedia.com/mpathic-bellevue-wa-ai-profile.md). Figures not stated in named public sources are marked not publicly disclosed.