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Review Article

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Pharmaceutical Biotechnology beyond Platform Optimism: A Conceptual Review of Synthetic Biology, Cell Engineering, and Scalable Bioprocessing

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ABSTRACT

Pharmaceutical biotechnology is increasingly described through the language of platforms: reusable biological parts, programmable cells, automated design cycles, intensified bioprocesses, and adaptable manufacturing systems. This framing captures genuine advances but can also obscure differences between technical reuse, process repeatability, product transferability, and pharmaceutical readiness. This conceptual review examines how platform claims are constructed across synthetic biology, cellular engineering, cell-factory development, cell-free manufacturing, and scalable bioprocessing. It traces core definitions, underlying assumptions, mechanisms, operational boundaries, and unresolved tensions across the selected literature without claiming exhaustive coverage or quantitative comparison. The reviewed evidence indicates that modularity is usually demonstrated at a specific layer—such as a genetic component, pathway, receptor, analytical method, or unit operation—whereas broader transfer across hosts, products, scales, facilities, and therapeutic modalities requires additional evidence. Biological burden, pathway coupling, genetic instability, product-specific quality attributes, process integration, biosafety, and environmental context repeatedly limit simple platform generalization. The review therefore proposes a staged maturity logic that distinguishes reusable components, repeatable workflows, robust process families, product-bounded pharmaceutical platforms, and demonstrated transfer and implementation. Advancement between these stages depends on evidence matched to the claimed layer of maturity rather than on the platform label itself. Priority research should test transfer under predefined biological, process, quality, scale, and use conditions; integrate uncertainty into computational and automated design; and determine when shared infrastructure genuinely preserves product-specific performance. This framework is intended to clarify evidence requirements and research questions, not to provide a validated readiness score or regulatory pathway.

Key words: *Pharmaceutical biotechnology, Biomanufacturing, Cell factory, Bioprocess, Biologic developability, Synthetic biology*

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INTRODUCTION

Pharmaceutical biotechnology now encompasses microbial and mammalian production systems, engineered therapeutic cells, synthetic regulatory circuits, cell-free expression, and integrated biomanufacturing. These technologies differ in mechanism and intended use, yet they are frequently grouped under a common platform

narrative. Such breadth makes the field scientifically productive but conceptually unstable because evidence of success at one technological layer may be interpreted as evidence of readiness at another [1].

The platform label is applied to industrial biotechnology infrastructures, programmable cellular functions, and compact multiproduct manufacturing systems. These developments demonstrate meaningful forms of reuse, but they operate at different biological and operational levels. An industrial innovation system, a synthetic gene circuit, and a shared manufacturing train cannot be assumed to possess equivalent mechanisms, validation requirements, or transferability merely because each is described as a platform [2–4].

Prevailing platform optimism often rests on an implicit progression: standardized biological parts enable predictable systems; predictable systems enable scalable processes; and scalable processes enable interchangeable pharmaceutical products. Each transition is conditional. Biological components interact with host physiology, process performance depends on operating history, and product quality remains linked to molecular structure, cellular state, purification, formulation, and intended administration.

This conceptual review examines those transitions rather than treating platform status as a binary property. It compares definitions, assumptions, mechanisms, evidence boundaries, and operational constraints across synthetic biology, cell engineering, cell factories, cell-free manufacturing, and bioprocessing. Its contribution is an evidence-informed maturity logic that separates reusable tools, repeatable workflows, robust process families, product-bounded platforms, and demonstrated transfer. The framework is proposed as an organizing model, not as an empirically validated ranking or universal development pathway.

Review scope and conceptual boundaries

The review includes technologies that design, produce, control, or apply biological systems for pharmaceutical purposes. It distinguishes functional proof from deployment because performance outside controlled laboratory conditions may depend on stability, storage, resource availability, operator demands, environmental exposure, and containment. Demonstrated biological function therefore cannot alone establish manufacturing robustness or practical implementation [5].

Cell-free manufacturing is included as a distinct platform family rather than as a simplified extension of cellular production. Removing the requirement to maintain viable cells can accelerate design and broaden accessible chemistries, but it does not eliminate dependence on extracts, templates, energy systems, folding, post-translational modification, reagent quality, purification, or reproducibility. Cell-free operation should consequently be interpreted as a different constraint structure, not an absence of constraints [6].

Biofoundries are treated as enabling infrastructures that integrate design, construction, testing, learning, automation, and data management. Their platform value lies in workflow coordination and repeatability, but infrastructure maturity does not itself establish pharmaceutical transferability. Interoperability, assay quality, process planning, data standards, equipment utilization, and long-term sustainability remain necessary for meaningful operation [7].

The synthesis therefore separates four objects that are often conflated: the biological component, the engineered system, the manufacturing process, and the pharmaceutical product. Evidence may support one object without validating the others. Alternative explanations—including superior local optimization, extensive tacit expertise, narrowly selected products, or unusually controlled operating conditions—must also be considered before performance is attributed to an intrinsically transferable platform.

The Platform concept in pharmaceutical biotechnology

Automated design–build–test–learn systems illustrate both the value and the limits of platform thinking. Integrated pipelines can coordinate pathway design, construction, measurement, and iterative learning, while algorithm-guided experimentation can reduce the number of variants tested. However, these demonstrations remain bounded by the host, pathway, assay, training data, design space, and optimization objective used in each system [8–10].

A platform should therefore be defined by the layer at which reuse has been demonstrated. Reusable components include genetic parts, enzymes, sensors, analytical methods, and unit operations. Repeatable workflows coordinate these elements through a recurring sequence. Process families add a defined host, equipment architecture, operating envelope, and control strategy. Product-bounded platforms further require evidence that product-specific quality attributes remain controlled within that family.

The strongest claim—transferability—requires more than repetition. It concerns whether performance is retained when the product, host, scale, raw-material lot, site, equipment, operator, or intended use changes. A compact

manufacturing system may accommodate several products while still requiring distinct expression, purification, analytical, and formulation strategies for each product [4]. Similarly, a biofoundry may reproduce an experimental workflow without establishing that its outputs possess comparable pharmaceutical consequences [7].

Platform maturity is consequently multidimensional. A technology may be highly mature in automation but immature in biological robustness, or mature within one product family but weakly supported across modalities. The term should therefore be accompanied by an explicit statement of what is reusable, under which conditions, and with what retained outputs. Without those boundaries, the label compresses materially different evidence into an apparently unified claim.

Synthetic-biology design principles

Synthetic-biology design commonly relies on abstraction, modularity, standardization, and iterative optimization. In pharmaceutical cell factories, however, pathway performance depends on coordinated host selection, enzyme activity, precursor availability, cofactor balance, transport, compartmentalization, toxicity management, and process conditions. The relevant design object is therefore not an isolated pathway but a coupled host–pathway–process system [11].

The complete biosynthesis of cannabinoids in yeast illustrates this coupling. Reconstruction required heterologous enzymes, precursor-pathway modification, metabolic balancing, and engineering of activities not naturally optimized within the host. The achievement established biological feasibility and expanded accessible chemical space, but it did not establish that the same design architecture would transfer without substantial modification to other molecules, hosts, scales, or pharmaceutical specifications [12].

Medicinal tropane-alkaloid biosynthesis likewise required extensive pathway reconstruction, enzyme coordination, compartmental management, and host engineering. Reusing the yeast chassis did not make the pathway plug-and-play; the product's chemistry imposed distinct biological requirements. This case supports a broader interpretation of modularity as conditional compatibility rather than effortless interchangeability [13].

Synthetic-biology platforms are therefore most defensible when they specify a bounded design space and retain mechanisms for diagnosing context failure. Standardized parts can accelerate construction, and automated learning can improve iteration, but neither guarantees stable expression, manufacturable titres, acceptable impurity profiles, or product quality. Pharmaceutical maturity begins when design abstractions are tested against biological coupling, process exposure, developability, and the attributes that determine the final product's intended function.

Cellular engineering and programmable function

Cellular engineering extends synthetic-biology logic from molecule production to programmed sensing, computation, and therapeutic action. This distinction changes the pharmaceutical object: in a conventional cell factory, the cell produces the product, whereas in a living therapeutic or engineered-cell medicine, the cell is part of the administered product. Delivery, persistence, host interaction, functional stability, dosing, and containment therefore become integral to product design [14].

Synthetic receptors demonstrate that extracellular recognition can be connected to user-defined intracellular programmes. Their modular architecture allows sensing and response elements to be recombined, providing a powerful design vocabulary for cell therapies. Nevertheless, receptor modularity does not establish interchangeability of whole cells, manufacturing processes, or clinical consequences because cell state, receptor abundance, signalling context, payload, and tissue environment remain influential [15].

Orthogonal transcription systems similarly expand control over mammalian-cell gene expression. Separating engineered regulation from endogenous transcription may reduce some forms of interference and permit programmable outputs. Pharmaceutical interpretation remains conditional, however, because orthogonality demonstrated in an experimental system cannot alone establish stable phenotype, therapeutic durability, manufacturability, or safety under clinically relevant conditions [16].

Programmable function should therefore be evaluated at multiple linked levels: construct behaviour, cellular phenotype, population stability, manufacturing consistency, and intended biological consequence. Evidence at one level may support progression to the next, but it cannot substitute for it. **Table 1** organizes the evidence, constructs, relationships, uncertainties, and boundary conditions required for core concepts, platform claims, and hidden assumptions in pharmaceutical biotechnology beyond platform optimism.

Table 1. Core concepts, platform claims, and hidden assumptions in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology beyond Platform Optimism.

Evidence domain or review construct	Review question	Eligible evidence type	Key extraction fields	Appraisal or relevance criterion	Synthesis role	Main limitation	Interpretation boundary
Pharmaceutical biotechnology	What technological objects are grouped under the field?	Field reviews and product-development studies	Product type, engineered system, intended use	Direct pharmaceutical relevance	Defines the conceptual perimeter	Broad categories conceal mechanistic differences	Shared terminology does not establish shared maturity [1, 14]
Design modularity	Which components can be recombined predictably?	Mechanistic and engineering studies	Component, host, input, output, context	Function demonstrated in a defined system	Tests component-level reuse	Context and resource dependence	Component modularity is narrower than product transferability [3, 15, 16]
Cell factory	What is reused across biosynthetic products?	Pathway and host-engineering studies	Host, pathway, enzyme, precursor, titre-related constraints	Evidence of coupled host–pathway design	Identifies conditional reuse	Product-specific biochemical incompatibility	Chassis reuse does not establish plug-and-play biosynthesis [11–13]
Biofoundry or DBTL workflow	Does automation create a transferable platform?	Integrated automation studies	Design space, assay, algorithm, learning cycle	Repeated workflow performance	Defines workflow repeatability	Objective and data dependence	Automation does not prove pharmaceutical equivalence [7–10]
Therapeutic engineered cell	When does programmable function become a medicine?	Cell-engineering and translational studies	Sensing, output, persistence, manufacturing, containment	Connection between function and product context	Separates cell-as-product from cell-as-factory	Host and environmental variability	Functional proof does not establish durable therapeutic performance [14–16]
Proposed construct: product-bounded platform	What evidence supports transfer within a declared product family?	Integrated biological, process, analytical, and quality evidence	Product class, host, process envelope, CQAs, site and scale	Retention of predefined outputs after transfer	Organizes platform claims by evidentiary layer	Not yet a validated classification	The construct is an original conceptual synthesis

Bioprocess intensification and scale transition

Bioprocess intensification aims to improve productivity, facility utilization, speed, or process continuity, but intensified operations do not automatically form a robust end-to-end system. Integrated continuous antibody manufacture requires coordinated sensing, process control, compatible unit operations, residence-time understanding, and system-level process design [17–19]. This is the third and final grouped citation used in the manuscript.

Integration can shift rather than remove constraints. Increasing upstream productivity may overload downstream capture, while shortened holds can tighten scheduling and disturbance-response requirements. Greater connectivity may also allow variability to propagate across operations that were previously buffered by batch boundaries. Consequently, local improvement should be distinguished from improvement in the performance of the manufacturing system as a whole [18].

Scale transition further changes mixing, mass transfer, residence distributions, material exposure, process duration, and opportunities for biological selection. A process that is reproducible in a development-scale environment may therefore encounter different limiting mechanisms at pilot or manufacturing scale. Scale should be treated as a change in operating context rather than a simple multiplication of vessel volume.

Process modelling can help compare architectures, capacities, scheduling options, and control strategies, but its conclusions remain conditional on structural assumptions, parameter quality, and calibration. A model-supported process design is evidence of analytical feasibility within its declared domain, not direct evidence of implemented robustness, product comparability, or successful transfer between sites [19].

Platform transferability across therapeutic products

Transferability is most credible when the transferred element and retained outcome are explicitly stated. Even among recombinant proteins, microbial hosts differ in secretion, folding, post-translational modification, proteolysis, productivity, and stress tolerance. A host may therefore function as a reusable production chassis while remaining suitable only for a bounded set of molecular structures and quality requirements [20].

Adeno-associated viral vectors illustrate a different constraint architecture. Vector biology, capsid composition, genome packaging, potency, impurity profiles, analytical limitations, upstream yield, and downstream recovery create modality-specific scale-up problems. Shared bioreactors or purification principles cannot establish that control strategies developed for conventional proteins will transfer directly to viral vectors [21].

CAR-T manufacturing introduces further distinctions. Patient- or donor-derived starting material, chain of identity, cellular heterogeneity, variable expansion, time-sensitive logistics, and living-product release testing make scale-out as important as scale-up. Closed systems and automation may improve consistency, but they cannot remove biological variation or eliminate the need for product-specific evidence [22].

Platform transfer is therefore conditional on a declared envelope: product family, host or cell source, process architecture, scale, site, material inputs, analytical methods, and intended decision. Transfer beyond that envelope should be treated as a new claim requiring additional evidence. Similar terminology, equipment, or workflow diagrams cannot alone establish analytical similarity, comparable clinical consequences, or interchangeable manufacturing control.

Failure modes hidden by platform-level claims

Platform narratives commonly emphasize successful design outputs while compressing the biological costs imposed by those designs. Synthetic constructs compete for transcriptional, translational, energetic, and metabolic resources. Resource burden can alter growth and expression, creating feedback between the engineered module and the host that violates assumptions of component independence [23].

Failure can also emerge over production time. When expression imposes a fitness cost, mutations that reduce or eliminate production may gain a selective advantage. Large populations and prolonged cultivation increase opportunities for such variants to arise and expand, meaning that apparent stability in short experiments may not predict stability under manufacturing exposure [24].

Robustness should consequently be defined as maintained performance under relevant perturbations rather than maximum output under optimized conditions. Perturbations may include raw-material variation, oxygen or nutrient gradients, temperature shifts, process interruptions, altered inoculum history, or extended culture duration. The relevant question is not whether a system can work, but whether its intended function persists within a predefined operating envelope [25].

Failure is not evidence that platform engineering is intrinsically ineffective. It indicates that biological coupling, evolution, process history, and measurement limitations can provide rival explanations for performance loss. **Table 2** organizes the evidence, constructs, relationships, uncertainties, and boundary conditions required for evidence supporting major concepts and limits of platform-level generalization.

Table 2. Evidence supporting major concepts and limits of platform-level generalization.

Method, platform, or evidence category	Representative application	Reported strength	Validation context	Generalization concern	Contradictory evidence	Evidence gap	Review interpretation
Automated DBTL	Microbial pathway optimization	Faster iterative design and reduced experimental search	Defined hosts, pathways and assays	Model and objective dependence	Success may reflect a narrow design space	Cross-host and cross-product validation	Supports workflow repeatability, not universal prediction [8–10]

Pathway-engineered cell factory	Cannabinoid and tropane biosynthesis	Access to complex medicinal molecules	Laboratory yeast systems	Extensive product-specific redesign	Shared chassis did not remove pathway-specific constraints	Scale, purification and product-quality evidence	Demonstrates feasibility within bounded biochemical contexts [12, 13]
Programmable therapeutic cells	Synthetic receptors and transcription systems	Reconfigurable sensing and gene output	Defined engineered-cell experiments	Cell-state and tissue-context dependence	Module function may not persist at whole-product level	Durability, manufacturing and external validation	Supports functional modularity, not clinical equivalence [15, 16]
Integrated continuous processing	Monoclonal-antibody manufacture	Coordinated production and control	Related biologics processes	Modality, site and product dependence	Integration may propagate disturbances	Cross-site and cross-product transfer	Supports process-family maturity within a declared envelope [17–19]
Viral-vector platform	AAV manufacture	Reusable upstream and downstream principles	Vector-specific development	Capsid, potency and impurity variability	Conventional biologics assumptions may not hold	Standardized analytics and transfer evidence	Modality-specific evidence remains necessary [21]
Cell-therapy platform	CAR-T manufacture	Closed processing and automation potential	Patient- or donor-linked products	Starting-material and identity variation	Scale-out challenges differ from batch scale-up	Comparability across sites and cell sources	Workflow similarity does not establish product interchangeability [22]
Robust production strain	Engineered microbial bioprocess	High output under optimized conditions	Often short and controlled experiments	Evolutionary and perturbation sensitivity	Burden and genetic escape can erode performance	Long-duration and process-relevant stress testing	Robustness must be measured directly [23–25]

Manufacturing, quality, and biosafety constraints

Manufacturing maturity requires a defensible connection between process measurements and product quality. Real-time monitoring may improve process understanding, but a signal becomes decision-relevant only when its target, calibration, uncertainty, drift, and relationship to a critical quality attribute are established. Instrument availability or data density alone cannot demonstrate quality assurance [26].

Living bacterial therapeutics intensify this requirement because the engineered organism, its activity, and its interaction with the host are interconnected. Strain design must be coordinated with formulation, viability, dosing, pharmacology, shedding, manufacturing consistency, and environmental exposure. A reusable genetic chassis cannot eliminate product-specific chemistry, manufacturing, and control questions [27].

Biosafety likewise requires layered reasoning. Kill switches, auxotrophies, synthetic dependencies, and other containment systems may reduce persistence or escape, but each can be affected by mutation, environmental rescue, host context, or incomplete activation. No single mechanism should be interpreted as universally fail-safe; redundancy and context-specific challenge testing remain necessary [28].

Quality and biosafety controls therefore define boundaries rather than certify unlimited readiness. Monitoring, containment, and process automation may reduce uncertainty when they are fit for a declared use, but they cannot alone establish clinical safety, regulatory acceptance, or reliable performance across products and environments. The strength of the conclusion must remain proportional to the specific attribute and context examined.

Conceptual synthesis and maturity framework

The reviewed literature supports treating platform maturity as staged and multidimensional. Process intensification itself comprises different levels of equipment, operational, and process integration, showing why a binary intensified/not-intensified label can conceal materially different architectures [29]. Pharmaceutical platforms require a comparable distinction among component reuse, workflow repetition, process robustness, product control, and demonstrated transfer.

The proposed first level is reusable-component maturity, in which genetic parts, enzymes, sensors, analytical tools, or unit operations function within specified conditions. The second is repeatable-workflow maturity, demonstrated when a coordinated DBTL or manufacturing sequence can be executed reproducibly. Neither level

establishes that biological behaviour, product quality, or process performance will persist after a material contextual change.

The third level is robust-process-family maturity, requiring a defined host or cell system, operating envelope, disturbance strategy, and evidence of biological and process stability. The fourth is product-bounded pharmaceutical-platform maturity, which adds product-specific developability, critical quality attributes, purification, formulation, potency, identity, and safety. Cell-free systems illustrate why expanded design freedom may coexist with unresolved extract consistency, modification, purification, scale, and quality constraints [30].

The fifth level is demonstrated transfer and implementation, requiring evidence across the particular products, scales, sites, equipment, materials, operators, or use environments included in the claim. Sustainable implementation also depends on standards, workforce, facilities, supply networks, and coordinated industrial capacity rather than biological design alone [31]. Movement between levels is therefore an evidentiary transition, not a numerical score.

Table 3 organizes the evidence, constructs, relationships, uncertainties, and boundary conditions required for conceptual maturity, transferability limits, failure modes, and research propositions.

Table 3. Conceptual maturity, transferability limits, failure modes, and research propositions.

Cross-study pattern or configuration	Context or boundary condition	Mechanism or explanatory factor	Observed or reported outcome	Rival explanation	Certainty or rigour concern	Implication	Research priority
Modular design succeeds in a defined system	Fixed host, construct and assay	Component compatibility	Intended function is demonstrated	Extensive local optimization	Limited external context	**Proposed:** classify as reusable-component maturity	Test across predeclared biological contexts [15, 16]
Automated workflow improves iteration	Bounded DBTL design space	Standardized execution and learning	Fewer or better-prioritized experiments	Narrow objective or favourable data	Sparse transfer evidence	**Proposed:** classify as repeatable-workflow maturity	Evaluate domain shift and uncertainty [8–10]
High output declines under perturbation	Extended culture or altered process environment	Burden, selection or resource competition	Instability or productivity loss	Uncontrolled process variation	Failure may be system specific	**Proposed:** robustness requires challenge testing	Test evolutionary and process-relevant operating envelopes [23–25]
Integrated process performs within one product family	Defined mAb architecture	Coordinated control and unit-operation compatibility	Continuous or intensified operation	Product-specific process tuning	Limited modality transfer	**Proposed:** classify as robust-process-family maturity	Test cross-product and cross-site retention [17–19]
Shared workflow encounters distinct modality constraints	Proteins, AAV, CAR-T or living bacteria	Product biology and quality requirements	Different scale, analytical and safety burdens	Unequal technological maturity	Heterogeneous evidence	**Proposed:** platform claims must declare a product boundary	Compare transfer using predefined CQAs [20–22, 27]
Digital or model-assisted control works in one process	Defined data and operating domain	Prediction and model-based decisions	Improved recommendation or control	Calibration to a narrow process	External validity uncertain	**Proposed:** models remain bounded until transfer tested	Temporal, lot, site and domain validation [32–34]

Figure 1 presents the original conceptual synthesis for platform maturity framework for pharmaceutical biotechnology, showing how the article's principal components, evidence relationships, uncertainties, and decision boundaries are connected.

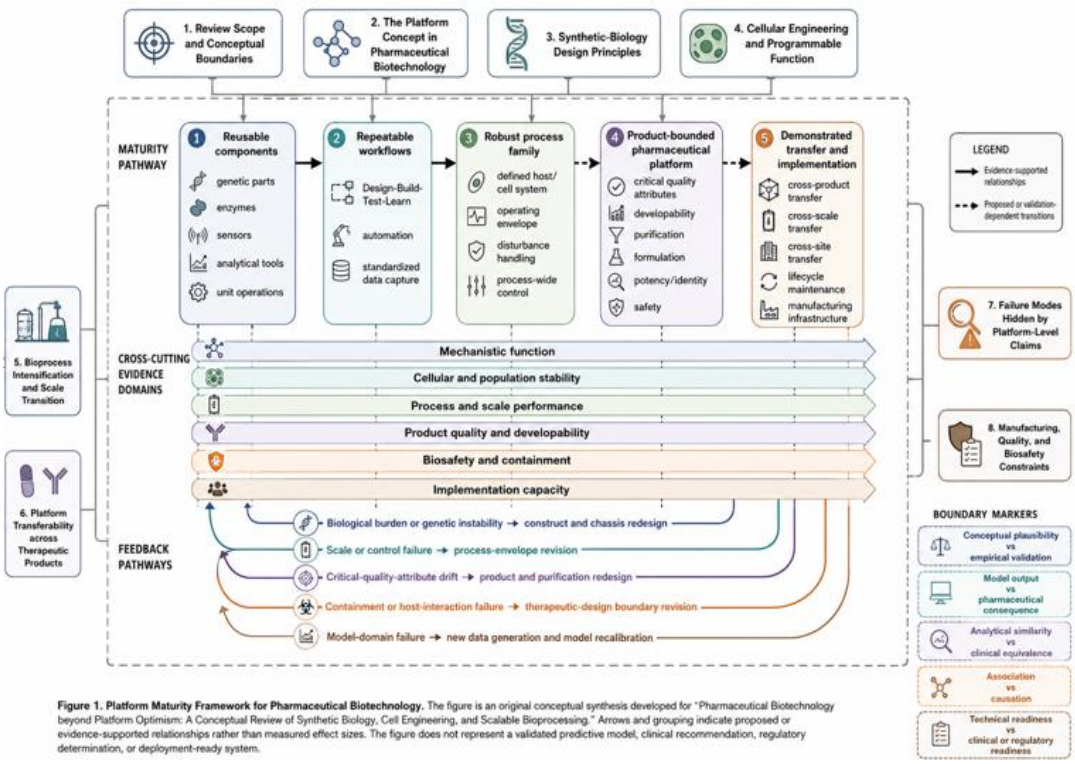

Figure 1. Platform Maturity Framework for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology. The figure is an original conceptual synthesis developed for "Pharmaceutical Biotechnology beyond Platform Optimism: A Conceptual Review of Synthetic Biology, Cell Engineering, and Scalable Bioprocessing." Arrows and grouping indicate proposed or evidence-supported relationships rather than measured effect sizes. The figure does not represent a validated predictive model, clinical recommendation, regulatory determination, or deployment-ready system.

Figure 1. Platform Maturity Framework for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology.

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Evidence gaps and research priorities

This conceptual review was structured around questions concerning definitions, hidden assumptions, mechanistic divergence, transferability constraints, maturity logic, and testable propositions. Information sources were selected through concept-focused searches using pharmaceutical-biotechnology, synthetic-biology, cell-engineering, cell-factory, cell-free, bioprocess, quality, robustness, scale, validation, and implementation terms. Eligible sources required direct relevance to a defined claim, construct, table element, figure relationship, limitation, or research proposition.

Extraction charted the technological object, definition, platform claim, underlying assumption, evidence domain, validation context, transfer evidence, failure mode, quality or safety constraint, and inference boundary. Relevance was judged by whether the source could support an exact conceptual or evidentiary statement. Synthesis compared mechanisms and claim levels rather than assigning numerical evidence weights. Machine-learning recommendation systems illustrate the need to report uncertainty and test performance outside the design conditions used for model development [32].

Research should now prioritize prospective transfer tests. Bioprocess models should be challenged across time, lots, scales, sites, equipment, and relevant process disturbances, with performance assessed against predefined pharmaceutical decisions rather than computational accuracy alone [33]. Digital twins should likewise be treated as bounded process representations until model maintenance, domain shift, control consequences, and cross-context validity have been examined [34].

Review limitations

The concept-focused method was intended to clarify constructs and tensions rather than provide exhaustive retrieval or quantitative estimates. Relevant evidence may exist outside the selected journals, in earlier foundational literature, or in regulatory and industrial materials not treated as eligible journal evidence.

The evidence base is heterogeneous across organisms, therapeutic modalities, scales, process stages, and intended uses. Mechanisms identified in microbial cell factories cannot be transferred quantitatively to mammalian cells, viral vectors, or patient-specific cell therapies without additional evidence.

Publication emphasis may favour successful construction, expression, intensification, or translation over unsuccessful designs and abandoned processes. Apparent platform maturity may consequently be influenced by selective reporting, proprietary knowledge, and limited access to negative manufacturing experience.

Finally, the proposed maturity levels and research propositions are interpretive constructs. They organize the reviewed evidence but have not been validated as a score, development sequence, decision rule, or predictor of manufacturing, clinical, or regulatory success. Their usefulness requires empirical testing across clearly defined platform claims.

CONCLUSION

Pharmaceutical biotechnology benefits from reusable biological components, programmable cells, automated learning, and integrated bioprocessing, but these achievements do not constitute one uniform form of platform maturity. The principal contribution of this conceptual review is a product-bounded maturity logic that separates component reuse, workflow repeatability, robust process families, pharmaceutical product control, and demonstrated transfer. This distinction exposes the assumptions hidden when modularity, automation, scale, or shared equipment are treated as evidence of universal transferability. Platform claims should therefore specify the layer of reuse, the biological and operational envelope examined, the outcomes retained, and the uncertainties that remain. The framework is intended to guide clearer claims and more discriminating research, not to provide a validated readiness assessment, clinical recommendation, regulatory conclusion, or guarantee of implementation.

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