



MTPConnect

MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre

Annual Report FY2019



Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Industry
Growth
Centres



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Foreword from the Chair and Managing Director & CEO

In November of 2015, MTPConnect was established as an independent, not-for-profit organisation to drive connectivity, innovation, productivity and competitiveness in Australia's medical technology, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals (MTP) sector.

This Annual Report is a chance to look back over not just the last twelve months, but the accumulated impact of nearly four years of a coordinated, industry-led approach to promoting the growth of this sector that is central to Australia's future health and prosperity.

One of MTPConnect's most valuable contributions has been our ability to foster connections and collaboration in the sector, increasing synergy between all participants ranging from industry and research to government.

A headline achievement during the past four years has been the investment of over \$26 million into initiatives supporting the MTP sector which have attracted more than \$39 million in co-contributions from industry and brought together 142 industry partners in collaboration. This funding has promoted connectivity and collaboration as a key focus, while also supporting skills and workforce development, regulatory and policy reform and securing international market access for Australia's medtech, biotech and pharma companies.

In 2016 we published a foundation plan for the sector and MTPConnect; our first Sector Competitiveness Plan, which was developed with input from hundreds of sector participants. The past three years have seen satisfying progress towards addressing the Sector Growth Priorities laid out in that 2016 plan.

With confirmation earlier this year of continued funding for our Growth Centre along with securing two new programs for the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) worth \$67.3 million, we took the opportunity to make some organisational changes to support future growth and sustainability. We added program-aligned business units to focus our resources on effectively delivering our programs and new offices have been opened in Western Australia and Queensland to better support our national focus.

We also launched a popular weekly MTPConnect podcast series promoting the people, projects and issues behind the Australian sector and making important insights and learnings accessible to all, here and overseas.

Yet we cannot stand still in this swiftly evolving MTP ecosystem. Technological developments and shifts in consumer behavior are creating new opportunities and challenges within the MTP sector. So, this year, we again sought input from key sector participants and released an updated Sector Competitiveness Plan with a roadmap for MTPConnect activities over the next three years, reflecting developments in the sector and achievements and lessons learned from our first years of operation. Importantly, the plan identifies a list of Knowledge Priorities which represent areas where there is a high level of unmet need globally, and where Australia is, or has the potential to be, a leading global contributor. We look forward to conversations with sector participants about how we can drive growth through these priorities and help the sector continue to make an even greater impact.

As we move towards 2020 with new momentum, we are ready to drive the next phase of the sector's growth.

We thank you for your engagement and continued support in our efforts to promote Australia's vital MTP sector.



Sue MacLeman
Chair
MTPConnect



Dr Dan Grant
Managing Director & CEO
MTPConnect

Scope of Report

The following report is the Annual Report from MTPConnect to the Department of Industry Innovation and Science (DIIS); a contracted deliverable as detailed in the Funding Agreement signed by MTPConnect and DIIS on 18 December 2015 and in the two Variations to the Funding Agreement signed on 3 May 2016 and 15 January 2019.

It relates to the 2019 financial year: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

During this period, MTPConnect has met or exceeded all milestones and reporting obligations within the Funding Agreement and Variations to the Funding Agreement.



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CHAMPIONING AN
MTP SECTOR-LED
APPROACH TO GROWTH

Overview

MTPConnect, the Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals (MTP) Industry Growth Centre (GC), was established in 2015 as an independent, not-for-profit organisation that champions a sector-led approach to accelerating the growth of Australia's MTP sector.

MTPConnect is distinguished from industry associations as it does not operate a paid membership model and is therefore not viewed as a lobby group. As an independent body it is attuned to the needs of all participants in the sector, including government. This allows MTPConnect to act independently as a trusted voice to inform and shape government regulation, public policy and funding.

MTPConnect is guided by an experienced Board of Directors and managed by a professional executive team.

The Board of Directors



Sue MacLeman – Chair

Sue MacLeman has more than 30 years' experience as a pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology executive having held senior roles in corporate, medical, commercial and business development. Sue has also served as CEO and Board member of several ASX and NASDAQ listed companies in the pharmaceutical sector and is currently Chair of MTPConnect (MTP-IIGC Ltd), Chair of Anantara Lifesciences Ltd (ASX:ANR), Chair of Novita Healthcare Ltd (ASX:NHL), Non-Executive Director of Palla Pharma Ltd (ASX:PAL), Non-Executive Director of Oventus Medical Ltd (ASX:OVN) and Non-Executive Director of Veski. Sue is also appointed to several academic and government advisory committees.



Dr Nicholas Cerneaz – Director

Dr Cerneaz has been building companies to commercialise academic research for more than two decades. After gaining a D. Phil from Oxford University in the early 90s in mammography technologies assisting the management of breast cancer, he has worked extensively guiding and advising the development of a number of medical technology startup companies, covering a variety of fields including radiology, oncology, ophthalmology, pathology and immunology. Other industrial experience includes automation and process optimisation in heavy manufacturing and process industries, astronomy instrumentation design and implementation, and advanced computer vision safety systems for the automotive industry. With MyHealthTest Pty Ltd, a Canberra-based medtech startup, he worked to bring convenient pathology services to consumers with do-it-yourself (at home) sample collection and test results delivered online to both patient and doctor. Dr Cerneaz has also previously been a director of various NFP and AIM listed companies.



Julie Phillips – Director

Julie Phillips has a strong background in the biotech and pharmaceutical industry, having worked as the CEO and Director of start-up Australian biotechnology companies operating in the life sciences sector. Her technical background is in clinical trials, regulatory affairs and pharmacoeconomic assessment/pricing of therapeutics. Ms Phillips is currently Chair of AusBiotech Ltd, the peak biotechnology industry association in Australia, CEO and Director of biotechnology company, BioDiem Ltd and its subsidiary Opal Biosciences, Ltd. She is a member of the Council of the University of Newcastle, and Innovation Australia's R&D Incentive Committee.



Dr Douglas Robertson – Director

Dr Robertson is the Director of Research Services at The Australian National University and has over 30 years experience in research, economic development, technology transfer, spin-out companies and commercialisation in the UK and Australia. During that time he has negotiated over \$3bn of research funding, served on the boards of over 20 technology companies and assisted the establishment of over 20 other early stage technology businesses. Dr Robertson was a founding Director of PraxisUnico (formerly Praxis), a major UK and international technology transfer and training association, from 2003-2013 and Chair in 2012 and 2013. Dr Robertson serves on the boards of four NCRIS facilities.



Dr Dan Grant – Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer

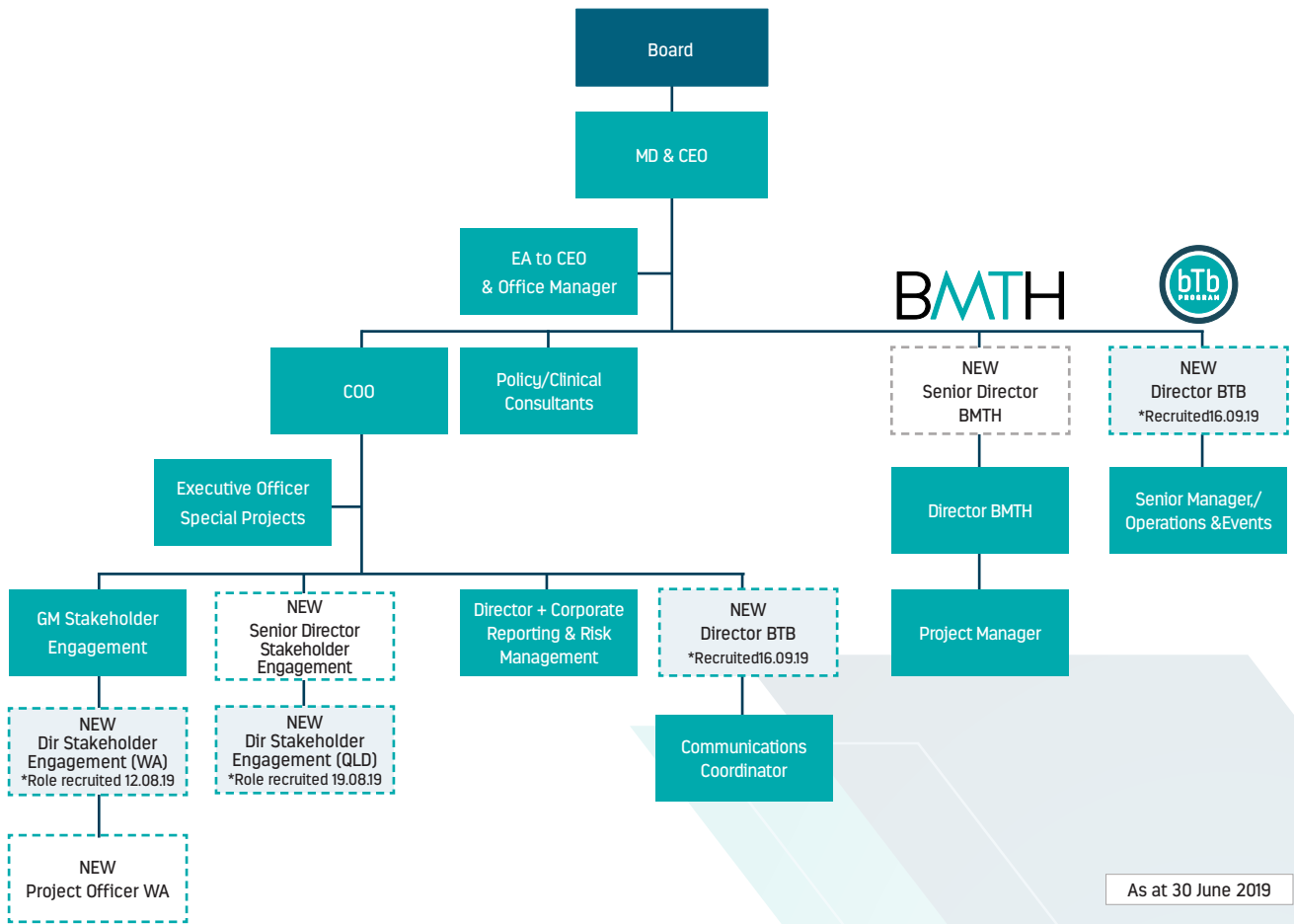
Dr Dan Grant has spent more than 25 years in senior roles in the pharmaceutical, higher education and medical research sectors. Prior to joining MTPConnect, Dr Grant was the inaugural Pro Vice Chancellor for Industry Engagement at La Trobe University where he had oversight of the university's innovation, commercialisation and industry engagement activities. He was also the Senior Director and Head of Pfizer's External Research and Development Innovation group for ANZ/Singapore and their head of open innovation. Dr Grant was also a member of the United Nations ESCAP SBN Task Force on innovation and competitiveness. He has a PhD in Cardiovascular Physiology and an MBA.



Stuart Dignam – Chief Operating Officer

Mr Dignam has 16-years' experience in media relations and communications and worked in broadcast media for more than a decade. He has experience in driving media positioning in Asia, including China, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore, and on-the-ground experience in the USA, Canada and Latin America. He has held several senior management positions in the public and private sectors and worked as a broadcaster for ABC Radio. Mr Dignam has also worked as a government media and policy advisor.

MTPConnect Organisational Structure



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 AS THE NATIONAL GROWTH CENTRE FOR THE MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES AND PHARMACEUTICALS SECTOR, **MTPCONNECT** IS UNIQUELY POSITIONED TO PARTNER WITH INDUSTRY AND DELIVER.

MTPConnect Projects Overview



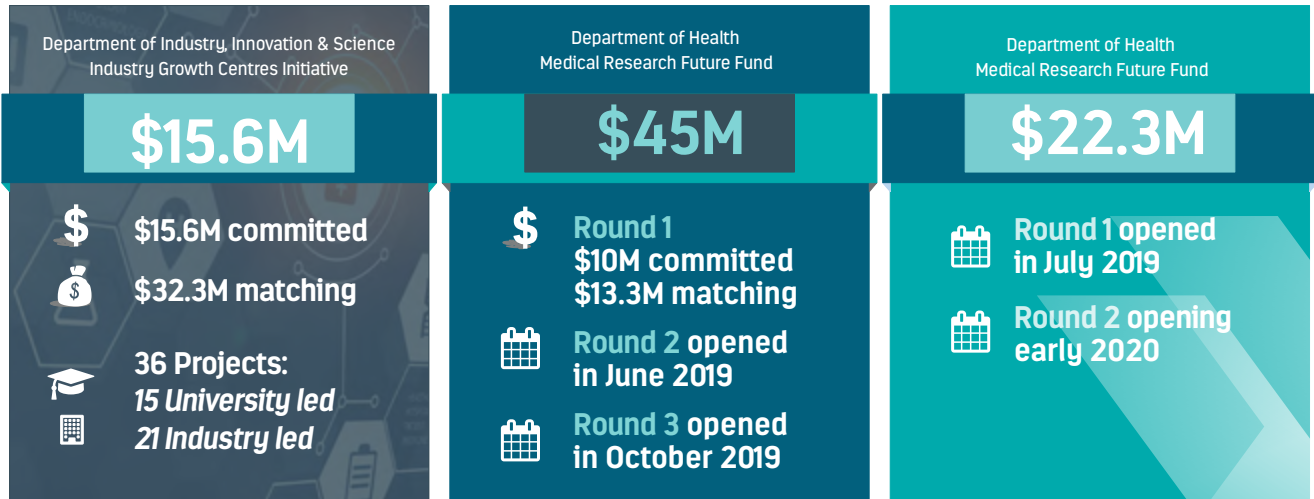
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Growth
Centres

BMTH BioMedTech Horizons
PROGRAM
SUPPORTING TRANSLATION OF AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION



Biomedical
TRANSLATION BRIDGE
PROGRAM



MTPConnect's goals as part of the Industry GC Initiative is to encourage the commercialisation of new products, enhance workforce skills, reduce red tape, and forge closer links with global supply chains.

Through the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS) GC Project Fund program, MTPConnect has committed \$15.6 million across 36 collaborative projects with demonstrable results which are outlined in more detail on p.86.

In addition to its GC activities, MTPConnect also delivers two programs for the Department of Health's (DoH) Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) supporting innovative projects that have the potential to impact healthcare outcomes

- The \$45 million BioMedTech Horizons (BMTH) program, and
- The \$22.3 million Biomedical Translation Bridge (BTB) program, delivered in partnership with commercialisation and translation organisations BioCurate, UniQuest and Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) and our education partners, the Bridge and BridgeTech programs, coordinated by the Queensland University of Technology.

These MRFF programs ensure that MTPConnect will remain relevant as a major funding body over the next four years and can continue supporting translation of Australia's research into commercial and clinical outcomes.

The MTP sector's performance over the last three years has been encouraging. The 8,000 jobs added by the sector since 2016 is greater than the aspirational growth target of 2,800 jobs / year over 10 years outlined in the 2016 SCP.

The following sections outline how MTPConnect is meeting its program objectives and provides further detail on impacts delivered by MTPConnect-supported projects.

Highlights FY2019

Since the Growth Centre projects commenced in 2015, real results have been achieved, including 170 new technologies being invented or progressed, 125 patents/trademark applications and licenses, 54 start-up companies formed, 84 direct jobs being created and the indirect creation of more than 260 jobs, and more than \$31 million of investment flowing into incubator companies. Over 29,000 patients have been impacted (as at 30 June 2019).

MTPConnect is forging stronger connections between researchers and industry to help maximise opportunities for Australians to not only make scientific and technological breakthroughs, but to see them progress through the proof-of-concept stage and be successfully translated and commercialised.

Notwithstanding the eight to 15-year development timelines that exist within the MTP sector, our projects across GC and non-GC programs are already delivering promising outcomes.

Through our MRFF-funded BMTH program, MTPConnect has so far committed \$10 million to support 11¹ projects and we will deploy an additional \$35 million over the next three years. Expressions of Interest for Round Two (95 received) are currently being progressed and applications to round three of BMTH opened on 15 October 2019.

Our MRFF-funded BTB program will deploy an additional \$22.3 million into the sector. Round One applications (155 received) are currently being assessed and Round Two is set to open early in 2020.

Although many of the MTPConnect-supported projects have yet to be completed, they are already demonstrating results - impacting patients, creating jobs and contributing to the growth of our economy.

COMMERCIALISATION



170
new
technologies
invented
or progressed



125
new patent
and trademark
applications
and licenses



74
new
products
launched



54
new
start-up
companies
formed



344
new jobs
(direct and
indirect) created
in project
companies



\$31.4M
total
investment
in incubator
companies

1 One project was discontinued in July 2019 due to lack of progress against agreed milestones

GRANT REVIEWS

 **156**
CRC-P's
reviewed

 **8**
CRC's
reviewed

 **26**
ARC consortia
advised/mentored

SECTOR SUCCESSES

Successful outcomes

43 grants
awarded



\$170M
funding flowed to MTP sector

INFORMATION SHARING AND WORKFORCE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



2,230
Individuals received
workforce skills /
commercialisation
training

12,926
people attended
896 training events
and seminars

13,746
people attended
242 collaboration
events

Program Funding

MTPConnect's funding base has grown substantially during FY2019. In keeping with the May 2018 Commonwealth Budget, the Australian Government undertook a performance assessment of the Growth Centres Initiative which led to MTPConnect's core funding being extended for an additional two years, through a Funding Agreement Variation signed on 15 January 2019. The extension provides MTPConnect with an additional \$5 million p.a. for two years through to 2021.

MTPConnect also successfully applied to deliver the BMTH2.0 and BTB programs for the MRFF.

The Minister for Health, Hon. Greg Hunt MP and the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Hon. Karen Andrews MP, jointly announced the BTB funding decision at the Canberra Innovation Network in February 2019.

Organisational Refresh and Expansion

In July 2018, Dr Dan Grant replaced Sue MacLeman as CEO, with Ms MacLeman transitioning to the role of MTPConnect Chair, replacing Dr Bronwyn Evans in October 2018.

In May 2019, Dr Grant joined the MTPConnect Board as Managing Director and CEO and Stuart Dignam became Chief Operating Officer.

New business units were established to align resources with the three program areas - Growth Centre, BMTH and BTB – to ensure MTPConnect is well-placed to deliver the current and future programs.

MTPConnect established an office in Perth, Western Australia, with the support of the West Australian government and The University of Western Australia. This initiative is called the MTPConnect Western Australia Life

Science Innovation Hub and Dr Kate Brooks was appointed as the WA Director of Stakeholder Engagement.

More recently, MTPConnect has also opened an office in Queensland, located at the Translational Research Institute in Brisbane. Andrew Bowskill was appointed as Queensland Director of Stakeholder Engagement.

With an expanded presence in Western Australia and now Queensland, we can continue to deliver on a national mission while tailoring our programs to address state-specific needs, opportunities and challenges.

Integrated Media Strategy

MTPConnect has worked hard to connect with the MTP sector through digital, social and traditional media. During FY2019 we continued to build on our well-established digital and social media presence. Our website pushes content out to the sector attracting more than 31,000 unique users. Our monthly newsletter is distributed to more than 2,800 individuals and organisations, we have more than 3,400 followers on Twitter and more than 2,300 on LinkedIn. These numbers, and the levels of engagement with social media platforms, continue to build month-on-month.

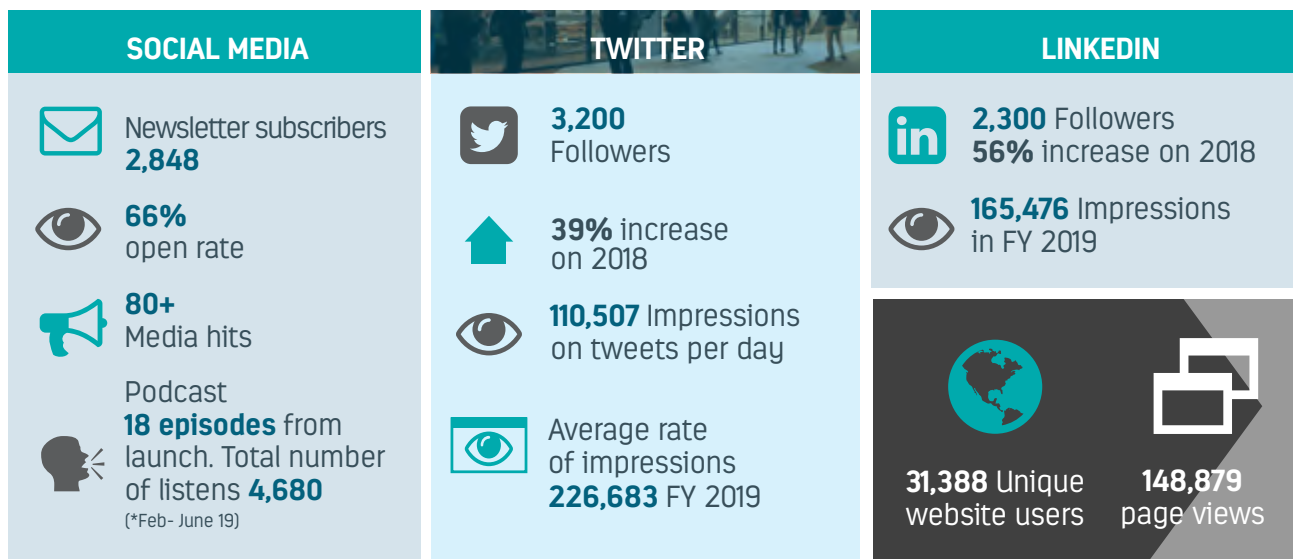
To further enhance our reach and impact, MTPConnect introduced a podcast series, commencing in February 2019 which has been well received by the sector. In the period from March to June 2019, 22 podcast episodes were produced, and the series has continued to flourish into the new financial year.

The MTPConnect Podcast Series aims to promote the people, projects and issues behind the Australian medical technologies, biotechnologies and pharmaceuticals sector. The series has secured 4,680 downloads across platforms such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Stitcher, as well as through MTPConnect's website.

Featured guests over the course of the series have included Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall, Pfizer Ventures Worldwide Managing Partner Dr Barbara Dalton, WuXi NextCODE Chief Strategy Officer Alex Fowkes, Dr Kath Giles from WA start-up OncoRes Medical, Professor Gordon Wallace from the Wollongong University 3D bioprinting facility, Brett Carter from the Cancer Therapeutics CRC, IMNIS Executive Director Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea AM, Professor Lyn Griffiths from the Bridge/BridgeTech programs and QUT and The Medical Alley Association's VP of Intelligence Frank Jaskulke.

→
THE NEW SECTOR
PODCAST SERIES
LAUNCHED THIS YEAR

CONNECTING WITH THE SECTOR



2019 Sector Competitiveness Plan



MTPConnect developed a revised and updated **Sector Competitiveness Plan** (SCP), in collaboration with L.E.K. Consulting, building on the 2016 and 2018 plans, which was published in June 2019.

The 2019 plan lays out a roadmap for MTPConnect activities over the next three years, reflecting developments in the sector and achievements and lessons learned from our first three years of operation. It was developed with input from a broad cross section of sector participants, including industry associations, companies, regulatory bodies, research organisations, federal and state government representatives and investors. Read more about our vision and roadmap of future activities on page 25 of this report.

Sector Reports – Analysis and Insights

During the year, several comprehensive reports were published and promoted to the sector including:

- Regenerative Medicine: Opportunities for Australia
- How Global Medtech and Pharma Corporates Engage with Australia
- Precision Medicine Roundtable White Paper



➤ MTPConnect led a sector-wide effort to develop a national Regenerative Medicine opportunities paper, and between June and September 2018, conducted research with more than 60 key sector stakeholders. The resulting report, *Regenerative Medicine: Opportunities for Australia*, was produced in collaboration with the AusBiotech Regenerative Medicine Advisory Group and others including the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) and was released at the AusBio2018 conference in Brisbane in October 2018. The report revealed that Australia has all the elements needed to be a global leader and create thousands of new jobs, and a five-point plan was outlined.

➤ The report, *How Global MedTech & Pharma Corporates Engage with Australia*, produced in collaboration with BioPacific Partners, was released at BIO. It examines how Australian medtech and pharma companies can foster international relationships and break into those markets.

➤ The *Precision Medicine Roundtable White Paper*, developed in partnership with BioIntellect, GenomePlus and Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, was released in June 2019. This timely report identifies the key challenges in this emerging area and showcases the potential for growth for Australian research.

Clinical Trials Growth

With Australia fast becoming a “go to” destination for international companies wanting to conduct clinical trials, promotion of Australia’s clinical trials capabilities is a particular focus for MTPConnect.

The numbers tell a powerful story. In 2006, the average number of monthly registered trials was 41. In 2018, that number soared to 179, and during that 12-year period, more than 5 million Australians participated in clinical trials.

The growth in clinical trials provides patients with early access to potentially lifesaving, innovative new therapies, while at the same time, advancing medical knowledge.

Australia’s growing reputation also attracts offshore investment and drives economic growth, with clinical trials adding more than \$1 billion a year to the Australian economy.

Across FY2019, MTPConnect has presented at events in Korea, Shanghai, Hong Kong and the United States highlighting to potential customers the factors that make Australia a country of choice for those looking to conduct clinical trials: our sophisticated medical research environment, rapid approvals process, cost effectiveness and highly regarded regulatory framework.



Pre-clinical and clinical **trials commenced 103**

New patients recruited to clinical trials **1,470**

Increase in **patients treated 29,140**



CASE STUDY: App boosts clinical trial recruitment

Australia’s geographically dispersed and comparatively small patient base creates difficulty in recruiting sufficient patients for trials. A new smartphone and web-based platform, called ClinTrial Refer is helping to change that, allowing physicians to locate an active clinical trial within minutes while the patient is in the clinic. Since its release in 2013, it has received wide industry support and resulted in a 60 per cent increase in recruitment for those trials using the App. MTPConnect has supported the pilot study, which once completed will allow for the solution to become easily transferable to more and more trial units. The project allows the team to combine 19 individual Apps into a single database, links to the wide network of the Australia New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR) and builds a national and potential global solution to improve trials recruitment.
www.clintrial.org.au.



Pictured: from left
Rolland Suen CTR Project
Manager, Rosyln Ristuccia
CTR Executive Manager
and Dr Xavier Badoux, St.
George Hospital

HOW MTPCONNECT IS ADDRESSING THE GROWTH CENTRE OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the Growth Centre Initiative is to improve the productivity and competitiveness of six sectors of strategic priority in the Australian economy.

The program is achieving this by supporting the four Growth Centre objectives.

MTPConnect Growth Centre Objectives



Improving coordination and collaboration between research and within industry, to achieve stronger commercialisation outcomes



Improving management and workforce skills necessary for sector growth



Identifying and acting on opportunities to address regulations and policies that are unnecessary or overly burdensome and impede growth and



Improving the capability of the sector to engage with international markets and access global supply chains

Objective 1 Collaboration and Commercialisation

Australia has a vibrant research sector supported by world-class infrastructure, yet its commercialisation productivity continues to decline. In 2018, Australia ranked 20th on the Overall Global Innovation Index even though since 2014 it has ranked 10th to 12th in the world for Innovation Inputs. During the same period our Innovation Outputs fell from 22nd in 2014 to 31st in 2018. While these measures are not sector-specific, they underscore the important economic policy objective of lifting innovation outputs that arise from our research.

MTPConnect plays a leading role in addressing the challenges faced by the MTP sector in translating research through to commercial outputs. We have successfully deployed GC project funding as well as BMTH funding across a wide range of project areas, ranging from 3D anatomical printing and precision medicine to clinical trials, advanced manufacturing and industry mentoring. MTPConnect is poised to further impact the sector with the first cohort of BTB projects and the second cohort of projects from the BMTH program to be funded in FY2020.

Engagement and collaboration between research and industry are improving, through programs like the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), Cooperative Research Centre Project (CRC-P) and Australian Research Council (ARC) Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP). Applications to these programs are being encouraged to align and engage with the GC priorities and commercialisation factors are being considered when evaluating proposals to these schemes. MTPConnect is engaging with an increasing number of research entities to help build connections to industry; connections which in turn improve the impact of their work.

MTPConnect is working collaboratively with the sector's key participants, including CRCs, industry peak bodies and associations. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) have been established between MTPConnect and relevant CRCs, ARCS Australia, AMGC, Life Sciences Queensland (LSQ), CSIRO, Medical Technology Association of Australia, AusBiotech, BioMelbourne Network and Medicines Australia, as well as international groups such as the Medical Alley Association (USA) and Confederation of Indian Industry (India).

Supporting Grant Applications

MTPConnect continued to assist sector participants by supporting grant applications to access government funding through the CRC, CRC-P, and ARC ITRP and Global Innovations Linkage programs.

By assisting entities with pre-submission review and mentoring and providing post-submission feedback directly to the granting agencies, we have contributed to 43 successful grant applications leading to around \$170M of funding flowing into the MTP sector.

DIIS Growth Centre Program Funding

MTPConnect has efficiently deployed its GC program funding. During Q1, an additional \$690,000 of funding was made to three new projects:

- **IMNIS** – to increase mentorship support for early career researchers, as well as rural and remote Australian PhD students through teleconferencing;
- **MDPP** – to allow further expansion of their program into a national offering; and
- **AsiaLink** – to make high level connections for companies interested in engaging with international markets and accessing global supply chains.

Steve Barsh of Dreamit Ventures Tours Australia

Working with Austrade and CSIRO, MTPConnect organised a visit to Australia by Philadelphia-based Dreamit Ventures Managing Partner Steve Barsh and coordinated his 'five-cities-in-five-days' tour, taking in Brisbane, Sydney, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne.

Mr Barsh connected with more than 1,000 innovators and start-ups, sharing his tips for start-up success born of 30 years of global Venture Capital and entrepreneurial experience. In addition to Austrade and CSIRO, our partners for the visit included MTAA, Advance Queensland, the QLD Chief Entrepreneur, ANDHealth, LaunchVic, The Actuator, MDPP, Hacking Health Queensland, QUTFoundry, Accelerating Australia, Cicada and Flinders University at Tonsley.

Projects Secure Additional State Funds

Two GC projects secured additional, external funding to expand their initiatives. Our program partners' ability to attract additional third-party funding validates the value they are adding to the sector.

MDPP secured funding of \$2 million from LaunchVic, a Victorian state government agency, to expand into Victoria. It also secured additional funding from the South Australian government to continue development of its programs there.

The CSIRO protein production platform in Melbourne received an additional \$1.5 million in funding from the Victorian government to build a Biomedical Manufacturing Precinct in Clayton.

Identifying clinical needs for the Department of Health's MRFF Programs

MTPConnect delivers the BMTH program for the Department of Health (DoH).

During FY2019, MTPConnect worked closely with DoH to identify new clinical challenges upon which to base the second round of funding for BMTH. We facilitated a number of national roundtables focused on identifying unmet clinical needs in trauma care and emergency medicine, ophthalmology, orthopaedic and cardiovascular. The series of roundtables sought direct input from clinicians to identify the unmet needs which informed the second round of the BMTH program.

National Roadshow for MTPConnect-Operated MRFF Programs

MTPConnect's application to deliver the BTB program was approved in Q3. Based on a national approach to support the translation of new MTP projects through to proof-of-concept, MTPConnect's BTB program partners with Uniquist, Biocurrate, MDPP and the Bridge and BridgeTech programs.

In Q4, a series of information sessions was conducted in capital cities and major regional centres around Australia to promote funding opportunities for medtech and pharma startups and SMEs through BTB. The sessions attracted more than 500 attendees across May and June, with visits to Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart, Geelong, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville, Newcastle, Wollongong, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

CASE STUDY: Health Horizon tracks tech innovations

Canberra-based healthtech start-up Health Horizon identified a gap between research and translation - how can someone search for an exciting development in Australian health innovation? Their platform provides users with a comprehensive list of Australian health innovations, from discovery to commercialisation. Health Horizons is an important first step toward a national online infrastructure that has empowered innovators, investors and consumers for the benefit of health research in Australia and globally. Health Horizon leverages human-curated machine learning to scan the internet for new Australian innovations, and piece together their history of development. The system provides a searchable, public pipeline platform for medtech, pharma and digital health innovations, allowing the progress to be tracked into the future.

www.thehealthhorizon.com



Pictured: The Health Horizon team at the World Hospital Congress in Brisbane.

Objective 2 Management and Workforce Skills

Attracting and retaining talent in a globally competitive market is difficult. In early-stage clinical development, SMEs often struggle to fund, attract or engage strong managerial talent, staff with business development skills or skilled advisors. Researchers and researcher-founded start-ups often lack the business acumen and experience needed to assess the commercial potential of their research or to translate it into commercial products.

The MTP sector faces a shortage of skills in enabling disciplines such as data analytics and bioinformatics, health economics, regulatory affairs and advanced manufacturing, including biologics and cell therapies. It is essential to address these areas of need if Australia is to achieve its full potential in the sector.

By effectively blurring the lines between industry, research and teaching, MTPConnect is helping to ensure that Australia develops an industry-ready workforce.

MTPConnect, in collaboration with program partners, has played an important role in upskilling Australia's industry participants. We have maintained strong engagement across the sector and supported our partners to deliver activities such as workshops, networking events and inbound and outbound trade missions, and in doing so, has connected with over 3,750 companies, universities, research organisations and industry associations.

As at 30 June 2019, more than 12,900 people had attended 896 MTPConnect-supported training and information seminars and more than 13,700 people have attended 242 collaboration events.

Through programs such as IMNIS, the Certara Monash fellowship, ARCS CRITERIA, UQ's Biologics training program and the Bridge and BridgeTech programs, MTPConnect's funding has grown the sector's skills base. In FY2019, MTPConnect continued to expand on these programs, supporting the VET sector and investigating new ways to support internships all ensure that the sector's skills keep pace with changing needs.

MTPConnect is still working with the Department of Education and Training, major industry stakeholders and the Food, Beverage and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Skills Industry Reference Committee to develop new VET training programs for the MTP sector.

MTPConnect has presented several training sessions and discussions with the Entrepreneur's Program and Accelerating Commercialisation.


Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) by ATSE


Stage 1 of the IMNIS project concluded in Q3 after successfully engaging a total of 15 universities over 5 States to partner 358 MTP-sector PhD students with industry mentors. A total of 38 events were held over a two-year period to educate mentees and mentors and facilitate networking.


Participants were surveyed to determine the impact of the project. Key findings include:


 95 per cent of mentors regularly discussed with their mentees, the careers available in industry, the broader industry sector and innovation processes.


 91 per cent of mentees said they have a better understanding of industry, the skills needed to succeed, the careers available, and that they extended their professional network beyond academia.

 86 per cent of mentees said they attained knowledge and skills to assist them in engaging and collaborating with industry.

 48 per cent of mentees met or shadowed their industry mentor at the mentor's workplace.

 86 per cent of mentees said their mentor regularly discussed industry career opportunities with them.

 29 per cent of mentees went on to attain an internship or job in industry during their one-year program. These students attribute this success to the advice of their mentor and their increased confidence, knowledge and skills gained through mentoring.

 59 per cent of mentors said they either engaged, or will engage further, in their mentee's research or with their research team and/or organisation.

The success of the IMNIS program, highlighted by the survey results, speaks directly to the MTPConnect objective of increased collaboration between research and industry to improve commercialisation outcomes. Given this success, MTPConnect agreed to fund a new IMNIS project – the Regional Queensland Initiative - that is piloting rural and remote mentoring and establishing an IMNIS alumni network.

ANDHealth

ANDHealth is a national digital health initiative working to create an integrated and connected ecosystem for the development and commercialisation of evidence-based digital health products.

The ANDHealth+ program, funded by MTPConnect, assists Australian mid-stage digital health companies to meet key investor, partner and customer requirements around clinical and commercial validation.

Since October 2017, ANDHealth+ cohorts have raised \$15.8 million, undertaken 48 new product launches and 14 international market entries, generated \$5.4 million in revenue, created 88 new jobs, commenced 17 clinical trials and studies, secured 133 new commercial customers and served 28,590 patients.

CRITERIA by ARCS

Led by ARCS Australia, the CRITERIA project equips university undergraduates with job-ready skills to meet the growing need for appropriately skilled and experienced professionals to conduct clinical trials in Australia.

ARCS Australia launched its program in the second round of the MTPConnect Project Fund Program in 2018 and found the support of key collaborators in research and industry, including, George Clinical, PPD Australia, Seerpharma, IQVIA, Sydney Partnership for Education, Research and Enterprise (SPHERE), Monash University, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Novotech, University of NSW, OnQ Recruitment, University of Sydney, Pharma to Market and University of Queensland.

In the first phase of the CRITERIA program, 52 candidates were selected from across Australia (ACT, NSW, QLD, SA, VIC, WA) based on their CV, expression of interest and aptitude. The selected successful candidates then undertook an ARCS administered three-month training program in all aspects of pharmaceutical medicine and clinical research, as well as mentorship to develop their interpersonal skills and job-readiness for clinical research roles. At the end of the initial training program, over 75% of graduates had gained full-time employment within the Australian clinical research industry.

Bridge and BridgeTech – QUT

The Bridge and BridgeTech programs, coordinated by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) equips researchers and entrepreneurs with the knowledge, skills and networks to enable the successful commercialisation of new pharmaceuticals and medtech innovations. In May,

QUT launched the third cohort of the Bridge program and organised the residential component of the second BridgeTech cohort. MTPConnect supported both events and discussed the opportunities for mid-career researchers to take advantage of the funding on offer through the BTB and BMTH programs. The Bridge and BridgeTech programs are also aligned as education partners in the MTPConnect BTB program.

The Actuator – Supporting MedTech Startups

The MedTech Actuator, with funding from MTPConnect, provides a centralised pathway for promising emerging medical technologies within Australia's publicly funded research institutes. It is Australia's first national seed-to-series A accelerator for medtech startups. They have:

- Placed 24 startups into the portfolio;
- Enabled the deployment of \$17 million of committed capital through the investment ecosystem;
- Helped their startups curate average angel-stage funding of \$700,000 each;
- Primed three startups for exit;
- Launched a new clinical angel investment and community platform;
- Trained over 1,000 innovators;
- Created 55 new jobs;
- Built a partner network of more than 75 partners; and
- Expanded activities into Singapore, India and South Korea.

CASE STUDY: Building a National MedTech Ideas Incubator

Founded in 2008, the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) started as an ideas incubator for the medtech-minded in South Australia. A decade later, the MTPConnect-supported program is expanding into other states and the big, bold ideas for new medical devices continue to flow. It fills a gap in Australia's medtech pipeline, working with great ideas and turning them into proven concepts, by connecting medtech inventors with experts across the nation using a tested model for early-stage collaboration. In a sector where Australia is performing ambitiously and punching above its weight globally, MDPP is well placed to catalyse new innovation in Australia.

www.mdpp.org.au

Pictured: Albert Ruiz Vargas, PhD Candidate, Flinders University wearing Re-Timer glasses, supported by the Medical Device Partnering Program.



Objective 3 Global Supply Chains and Markets

To be successful, Australian companies need to develop their products for global markets. By establishing strong links to global markets early in their development, Australian companies can better understand international market opportunities and the development and regulatory requirements needed to access these markets.

MTPConnect continues to play a key role in international engagement for the MTP ecosystem by promoting the strengths and capabilities of the Australian MTP sector and its participants to the world. We work with Austrade and Australia's peak industry bodies to strategically develop the sector's presence in national and international markets by fostering relationships and partnerships, leading outbound trade missions, supporting inbound delegations and bringing global best practice to Australia.

MTPConnect has partnered with Austrade and peak bodies such as AusBiotech and MTAA to put Australian MTP stakeholders in front of international customers and investors. Since establishment, we have led or directly supported 23 trade missions involving 850 companies. Our GC project partners have been involved in 119 inbound and outbound trade missions.

In FY2019, MTPConnect attended the 2018 MedTech conference, BioJapan 2018, BioKorea 2019, the 2019 BIO International Convention, the Asian Investment Series 2019 (Hong Kong and Shanghai) and the Australian Medtech Mission to Singapore to help Australian MTP companies build key international connections and market entry strategies.

In Q1 FY2020, MTPConnect led a delegation of 27 firms to the MedTech Conference in Boston, USA.

Understanding MedTech in Asia

During FY2019, MTPConnect announced a new project with [Asialink](#), Australia's leading centre for the promotion of understanding of the countries of Asia. Asialink is developing reports on medtech developments in the region: *Digital Health in Indonesia and Frugal Innovation in Medical Devices and Technologies in India*. They will also investigate the Asia capabilities of the board and senior executives of 172 ASX-listed biotech, healthcare equipment and services companies, allowing Asialink to make high-level connections for companies interested in engaging with international markets and accessing global supply chains. This project will conclude in March 2020, with a number of presentations and networking events.

BioKorea

MTPConnect was integrally involved in the BioKorea 2019 conference in April, supporting Austrade's delegation and promoting commercial and research opportunities. We presented on both the strengths and competitiveness of Australia's clinical trials ecosystem and the capabilities of Australia's Regenerative Medicine sector and chaired two sessions.

BIO International Convention, USA

At the beginning of June 2019, the MTPConnect team travelled to Philadelphia with AusBiotech, Medicines Australia and Austrade as part of the largest ever Australian delegation to the BIO International Convention. Along with some of Australia's leading MTP companies, the Australian delegation consisted of state government representatives from WA, QLD, NSW, VIC and SA, including WA Deputy Premier and Minister for Health Hon. Roger Cook MLA, QLD Minister for Innovation Hon Kate Jones MP, WA Chief Scientist Peter Klinken, NSW Office of Health and Medical Research's Anne O'Neill and Professor Ian Frazer from the MRFF.

MTPConnect produced and published a comprehensive podcast from BIO featuring key members of the Australian delegation and senior international pharma guests.

A new report, *How Global MedTech & Pharma Corporates Engage with Australia*, produced in collaboration with BioPacific Partners, was released at the BIO conference. It examines how Australian medTech and pharma companies need to think differently if they are to foster international relationships and break into those markets.

CASE STUDY: Precision Dosing – a New Wave in Digital Health

MTPConnect is a proud supporter of ANDHealth - Australia's only national digital health accelerator - and its work with mid-stage digital health companies. One such startup company is DoseMe which is developing a precision dosing platform for global use. Selected from over 50 companies to participate in ANDHealth's first program, it used the opportunity to prepare a US market entry strategy. DoseMe's platform - DoseMeRx - is designed for clinicians at the point-of-care by using readily available patient data to make real-time decisions on a patient's medication dosage and provide support from just one blood sample. DoseMeRx virtually constructs a model of each patient's individual pharmacokinetics. This allows clinicians to predict the optimal dose of medication, taking away guess work and manual calculations. The DoseMeRx platform was ranked in the top 20 2018 Hot Apps for healthcare providers by Health Data Management. www.doseme-rx.com



Objective 4 Regulatory and Policy Environment

Precision medicine, regenerative medicine, digital health and 3D printing of personalised medical devices have created an increasingly complex regulatory and policy pathway. More than ever, Australian SMEs will need assistance in negotiating these pathways. By continuing to identify regulations and policies that are unnecessary or overly burdensome, MTPConnect will continue to be a key independent and sector-wide voice for change to ensure Australia's regulatory, policy and tax environment keeps pace with rapidly changing sector needs, while at the same time safeguarding patients.

Adaptive Regulatory Reform

MTPConnect, in partnership with CSIRO, DIIS, ANDHealth, the University of Queensland and the TGA, has initiated a program to explore Adaptive Regulatory reform as it relates to Digital Health. Working closely with our partners, we are developing a coordinated approach to exploring *responses to the potential disruption from digital health technologies and the ensuing regulatory challenges*.

MTPConnect has coordinated development of a new report, *Adaptive Regulation for Digital Health: Enhancing Australia's Regulation System for the Next Generation of Healthcare* which is examining how Australian digital health industry stakeholders are engaging with the Australian therapeutic goods regulatory framework, particularly as novel products incorporating digital health technologies are emerging onto the market. Preliminary results from this report were presented at the AusMedtech Conference in May 2019. The final report will be released in FY2020.

Regenerative Medicine

In 2017, AusBiotech established a Regenerative Medicine Advisory Group to provide advice on current and emerging issues and trends facing the sector in Australia and overseas, improve and engage the sector, generate a clear definition of Regenerative Medicine, and address key advocacy issues. The Advisory Group identified a need for a comprehensive report to assess the current state of the Australian Regenerative Medicine sector and make recommendations on the priorities and goals for the sector.

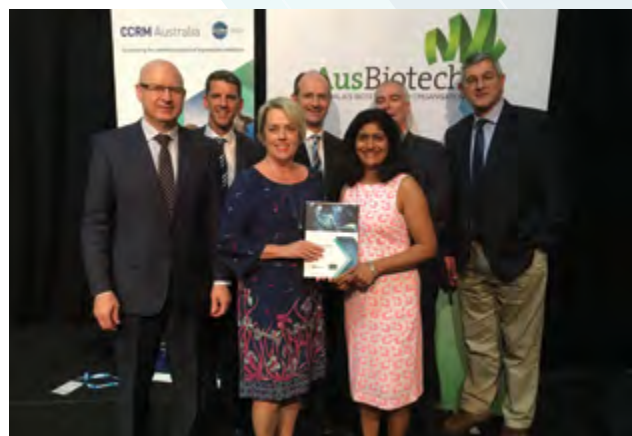
In collaboration with key stakeholders, MTPConnect led a sector-wide effort to develop a national Regenerative Medicine opportunities paper. Between June and September 2018 more than 60 key sector stakeholders participated in surveys, interviews and workshops and their insights were supplemented with desktop research.

The resulting report, *Regenerative Medicine: Opportunities for Australia*, was produced in collaboration with the AusBiotech Regenerative Medicine Advisory Group and other key stakeholders including the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) and was released at the AusBio2018 conference in Brisbane in October 2018. Opinion pieces were published in *The Mandarin* and *Biotech Dispatch* and *Pharma Dispatch* to promote the report and highlight opportunities for the sector.

The report revealed that Australia has all the elements needed to be a global leader and drive the creation of thousands of new, high paying jobs. The report's five-point plan includes:

1. Prioritise skills development by attracting, building and retaining world-class talent;
2. Improve collaboration across the value chain to accelerate commercialisation
3. Secure long-term investment by expanding the diversity of the pool of funders and venture capitalists;
4. Create a clear market access pathway through regulatory reform and alignment with key global markets; and
5. Enhance manufacturing capacity and capability to support commercial-scale manufacturing.

Following release of the report, the DoH has committed \$80 million for a new cancer centre in Melbourne providing CAR-T cell therapies and \$150 million for the establishment of the Stem Cell Therapies Mission, both significant steps towards capitalising on the potential of Australia's regenerative medicine sector.



ANDHealth white paper

A report from ANDHealth, *Digital Health: Creating a New Growth Industry for Australia*, developed with support from MTPConnect, was launched in December 2018. The report explores the strengths, opportunities, constraints and barriers to the commercialisation of evidence-based digital health technologies in Australia. It details how healthcare consumers can benefit from world-leading technologies and how Australia can create a fully-fledged digital health industry.

The report makes the case that Australia can develop an internationally competitive digital health industry which would complement and leverage our traditionally strong biopharmaceutical and medical device sectors. With the right incentives in place, improved access to capital and development of adaptive regulatory frameworks, Australia can realise its potential as a global digital health leader.

COSA – Launching cancer tele-trials in Australia

The MTPConnect-sponsored project, Pilot Implementation of the Australasian Tele-Trial Model, is achieving good results. The Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) has developed a national guide for implementation of the Australasian Tele-Trial Model in consultation with clinical trial sponsors, clinicians, health administrators and regulatory bodies. This project is implementing the tele-health strategy in multiple states.

To date, six tele-trial clusters have been established in Queensland, three in NSW and two in Victoria. Four tele-trials are open with twenty patients recruited and another six tele-trials are pending.

A tele-trial working group has been convened within National Mutual Acceptance and work is underway to genericise the tele-trial SOPs and tele-trials subcontract developed by Queensland Health and COSA into national documents. The working group will also work with insurers to address cross jurisdictional issues and public private partnerships thereby paving the way for the development of uniform tele-trial processes within Australia.



A person wearing a white lab coat and a grey hairnet is seated at a desk in a laboratory or office environment. They are looking at a computer monitor displaying various data or images. To the left, there is a large piece of blue and white medical equipment. The background shows a clean, professional workspace with a white desk and some papers. The overall scene is dimly lit, with a blue tint.

MTP SECTOR PERFORMANCE AND VISION

The MTP sector is a major contributor to R&D, both globally and within Australia. The MTP value chain encompasses a vibrant sector with a diverse range of participants, each with a critical role to play in the sector's growth and success. This value chain comprises consumers and patients, universities, other research organisations, small and large local and multinational companies, investors, service providers, industry organisations, infrastructure providers, governments, regulators, policymakers, funders and those involved in healthcare delivery, such as state health departments and private medical practice.

Vision

MTPConnect's vision is for Australia to retain or increase current and planned levels of expenditure in research and development (R&D) while achieving greater success in translation and commercialisation. This will deliver significant economic and jobs growth and improve the health and wellbeing of Australians. This means the sector will create more products that reach proof-of-concept and achieve greater commercialisation success, increase the number of companies with late-stage product successes, and maximise the value of IP monetisation events along the way. Explicit is the emphasis on driving better health outcomes for all Australians and international consumers through access to Australian MTP innovations.

To deliver on this vision, MTPConnect brings a value proposition based around a unique ability to take a national, independent and informed approach to:

- 1) delivering Strategic Funding that enables key initiatives and programs;
- 2) undertaking Direct Action to support the MTP ecosystem; and
- 3) acting as a trusted and Independent Voice to inform government on the key issues, challenges and opportunities for the sector.

Estimates developed in MTPConnect's 2016 Sector Competitiveness Plan (SCP) indicated that by 2025, the sector has the potential to:

- create an additional 28,000 jobs;
- build 200 companies; and
- add \$3.2B in GVA p.a. to the economy (a cumulative GVA of ~\$18B over the 10-year period 2015 to 2025).

To meet this goal, the sector needs to turn its ideas into products and get them into markets. This will require:

- Researchers and businesses improving their commercialisation/enterprise skills;
- Businesses securing access to international clients and investors;
- Researchers and businesses developing a deeper understanding of their regulatory obligations; and
- A regulatory environment that promotes innovation.

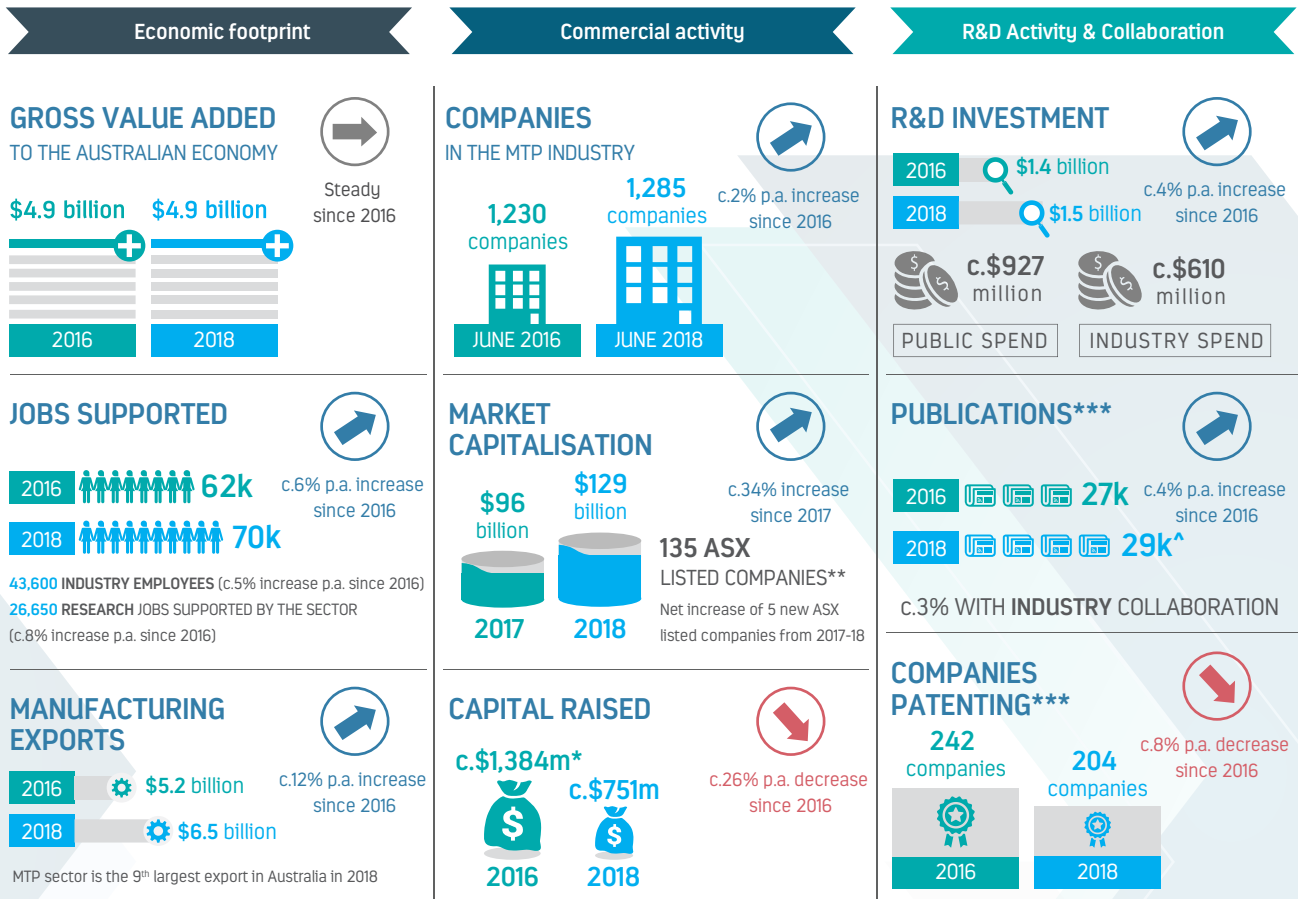
MTP Sector Performance

Through our SCP, MTPConnect has created a consistent set of sector-wide metrics to track and measure competitiveness and growth over the long term.

In 2018, the MTP sector added \$4.9 billion in GVA to the Australian economy, the same GVA as in 2016. The sector supported c.70,000 industry jobs in 2018, which is an increase of c.6% p.a. equivalent to an addition of c.8,000 jobs since 2016. Manufacturing exports grew by c.\$1.3 billion increasing from \$5.2 billion in 2016 to \$6.5 billion in 2018, ranking the sector as the 9th most valuable export for Australia.

The MTP sector's performance over the last three years has been encouraging. The 8,000 jobs added by the sector since 2016 is greater than the aspirational growth target of 2,800 jobs / year over 10 years outlined in the 2016 SCP. The aspirational scenario assumed that the industry would reverse its decline from 2010-15, return to 2010 levels within 5 years and then continue to grow at an equivalent rate out to 2025. For GVA, which was relatively flat from 2016-2018, there is still room for improvement if we are to attain the 2016 SCP's aspirational target of \$7.7 billion of GVA by 2025.

More information about MTP sector performance can be found in the [2019 SCP](#).



Megatrends and Knowledge Priorities

This year, the SCP highlighted a range of opportunities for the MTP sector that have been created by technological developments and shifts in consumer behavior.

Developments such as genomics, gene-editing, big data and analytics are accelerating the rise of precision medicine and digital health solutions. The ability to develop products and services tailored to individual/groups of consumers with seamless digital connectivity and integration is becoming increasingly feasible and holds great promise for enabling better health outcomes for consumers. Consumers are also increasingly aware of key issues affecting their overall health and wellbeing and are looking to take more responsibility for maintaining or improving their health.

Sector megatrends overview



As well as examining emerging megatrends, MTPConnect's 2019 SCP also identifies key Knowledge Priorities (KP), zeroing-in on the areas where there is a high level of unmet need, and where Australia is, or has the potential to be, a leading contributor globally. In so doing, the SCP captures the evolving nature of the MTP sector and provides a roadmap to drive innovation and sector growth.

As shown in the diagram below, six areas of science, nine therapeutic areas, five device/diagnostic areas and four other existing national priorities have been identified as Current KPs. Importantly, seven areas have also been identified as Emerging KPs which, if supported correctly, have the potential to significantly boost Australia's MTP sector.

	Areas of science	Therapeutic areas	Device / diagnostic areas	Skills / capabilities	Other existing national priorities
Current	Biochemistry and cell biology (including synthetic biology)	Oncology	Diagnostic device – POC / lab	Certain skills / capabilities have been identified through prior work, including advanced manufacturing, clinical trials expertise and big data analytics MTPConnect to lead a skills audit in 2019 along with sector participants to identify KPs	Drug repurposing
	Psychology and cognitive sciences	Infectious disease (including antimicrobial resistance)	Surgical devices and consumables		Biosecurity
		Neurosciences and neurology	Implantables (including 3D printed custom devices and bionics)		Data science
	Genetics and precision medicine	Cardiac and cardiovascular systems			Rare diseases
	Microbiology	Diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism	Wearable devices		
	Immunology	Respiratory disorders (e.g. asthma)	Digital health and monitoring		
		Arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions			
		Aged and palliative care			
		Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health			
Paediatrics and reproductive medicine	Regenerative medicine				
Emerging	Human movement and sports science	Optometry and ophthalmology			
	Medical physiology	Pain management			
	Medical biotechnology				
	Nanotechnology				

In this context, MTPConnect has a crucial role to play by taking a collective, coordinated approach to changes and challenges in the healthcare market in order to maximise value creation for the industry and consumers.

We believe continued growth of the MTP sector will generate the 28,000 new jobs and extra \$18 billion in Gross Value Add to the economy predicted in our 2016 SCP.

If we can achieve that goal, we'll have gone a long way to delivering on the long-held ambition of economic diversification through the lifting-up of a key knowledge-intensive sector.

FY2019 THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Throughout FY2019, the MTPConnect team worked hard to accelerate growth of Australia's MTP sector. Through meetings, missions, funding rounds, project development and new initiatives we increased collaboration and commercialisation, improved management and workforce skills, improved access to international markets and optimised the regulatory and policy environment. As we've detailed in our newsletters, stories, tweets and LinkedIn posts, here are some highlights of our activities across the year.

July 2018

Accelerating Precision Therapies – Project Signing

The MTPConnect project to accelerate precision therapies through digital infrastructure for adaptive trials and trial-ready cohort studies officially commenced. Its aim is to create an open source adaptive clinical trial platform to improve patient recruitment and feedback, initially for three rare diseases. It will prove the concept of adaptive clinical trials in rare disease populations and will facilitate capture of clinical evidence to inform the licensure and funding of new therapeutic products. The project is based at Queensland University of Technology and has five project partners, including Murdoch University.

ACI-RACS Academic Surgery Evening

MTPConnect attended a briefing on the NSW Guidelines affecting 3D Imaging and Printing research organised by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. Dr Elizabeth McGrath from the TGA provided an update on the consultation regarding the “proposed regulatory changes to personalised and 3D printed medical devices”. The Agency for Clinical Innovation, Orthopaedic Research Lab at Children’s Hospital at Westmead also attended.



Pictured: MTPConnect Chair Dr Bronwyn Evans, The University of Western Australia’s Vice Chancellor Dawn Freshwater and WA Minister for Innovation and ICT the Hon. Dave Kelly MP at the MTPConnect WA office launch

WA Office Launch

In partnership with the WA State Government and the University of Western Australia (UWA), MTPConnect launched its office at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research to support the state’s burgeoning life sciences sector. Hon Dave Kelly, Minister for Innovation and ICT, Dawn Freshwater, UWA Vice Chancellor, and the Minister for Health, Hon. Roger Cook joined then Chair of MTPConnect, Dr Bronwyn Evans to sign a Memorandum of Understanding to work in partnership on the establishment of the office.

July 2018 (continued)

The Bridge Tech Project Signing

The BridgeTech Project officially commenced to enable Australia to more effectively capitalise on its world class medical technology—medical device research sector by providing mid-career and senior entrepreneurs and scientists with relevant, specific commercialisation training. The program will be delivered by companies, universities and industry operating in the sector through online mediums, residential training and networking events and will educate 200 individuals in medical device commercialisation and improve networks between participants and industry.

Saliva Technology Application Research Symposium (STARS)

MTPConnect presented at the Saliva Technology Application Research Symposium (STARS) at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT), highlighting the advances in non-invasive diagnostic applications and showcasing some of the programs that companies can access.

TGA 3D-Printing Discussion

We attended a 3D-printing workshop organised by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regarding regulation of 3D printed devices. Dr Anna Lavelle chaired the session and Prof. John Skerritt and Elizabeth McGrath from TGA highlighted the current thinking around two main categories - patient-specific or custom devices.

CEO Meetings

With Dr Dan Grant joining MTPConnect as CEO, he and Sue MacLeman, Non-Executive Director and Chair-elect, met with a number of key stakeholders to begin introductions including Amirapu Somasekhar, founder of Global Life Sciences Capital Inc. and a seasoned leader in global finance. Mr Somasekhar will relocate to Australia from NY to set up GLSC as a de novo growth capital business focused on the life sciences industry in Australia. A meeting was also held with Australia's Consul General in Chengdu, Christopher Lim, to continue to build new connections made during AusBiotech's Asian Investment Series that was held in March.

Australian Regenerative Medicine Opportunities Report

MTPConnect facilitated an advisory group to begin to shape and provide expert input into a regenerative medicine study and opportunities report – comprising of RPA, Stem Cells Australia, Centre for Stem Cells Systems, The Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute; DIIS; Department of Health; and AusBiotech. Stakeholder consultations included a survey and face to face interviews and findings highlighted that the sector has the potential to transform patient outcomes, and that Australia has a strong position in regenerative medicine, but many competing nations are investing heavily to build capability and capacity and putting regenerative medicines at the forefront of research and commercialisation of therapies.

The MedTech Conference

MTPConnect announced its intention to lead the Australian delegation to the MedTech Conference in Philadelphia (22-26 September 2018) for the second consecutive year, supporting and promoting the Australian medtech community, and organising activities around the conference to connect Australian delegates with medtech representatives around the world. MTPConnect secured a high-traffic space for the Australia-branded pavilion to maximise presence at the conference.

July 2018 (continued)

Pictured: MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant with ANDHealth's Grace Lethlean, Minister for Trade and Investment, Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Small Business the Hon. Philip Dalidakis and ANDHealth Managing Director and Co-Founder Bronwyn Le Grice at the ANDHealth 2018 cohort launch in Melbourne.



ANDHealth's 2018 Cohort Launch

MTPConnect's Project Fund Program recipient ANDHealth announced its 2018 cohort at Allens in Melbourne - five digital health companies were welcomed, including Cancer Aid, Health Delivered, Kesem Health, Hello Sunday Morning and Vitalic Medical. The Victorian Minister for Trade and Investment, Innovation and the Digital Economy, and Small Business the Hon. Philip Dalidakis MP made the announcement.

Establishment of a Bioprocessing Training Facility

MTPConnect met with Dr Tim O'Meara and Jon Ince of GE Healthcare as well as business development and industry engagement representatives from the University of Technology Sydney to discuss a status update on the GE/UTS Bioprocessing Training Facility. Construction is under way with significant financial commitment from the university, in-kind and equipment support from GE Healthcare, and a NSW Government grant. The facility will provide training for bioprocessing and biopharmaceutical manufacturing and is based on the successful NIBRT Facility in Ireland.

Project Fund Program Meetings

MTPConnect management began a series of strategic consultations with Project Fund Program recipients both current and exiting projects, to identify key project impacts. In Melbourne, the meetings were held with The Actuator, AusBiotech, IMNIS and CRC Therapeutics. In early August, MTPConnect will attend IMNIS's celebrating visionary leadership event in WA, which will include participation from fellow Industry Growth Centres NERA and METSignited.

The Actuator Pitches Event

MTPConnect were part of a group of stakeholders, including investors, design hubs and other industry leaders, who attended presentations from the second cohort of the Actuator Accelerator companies - Stelect, Rehabawift, Curatek, Zunaac, Hexagon Innovation, Augmented Bionics, Lenexa Medical and Flo.

Future of Employment Services Community Forum

MTPConnect participated in a consultation on employment services 2020 run by the Victorian Department of Jobs and Small Business. The forum highlighted the importance of better meeting the needs of employers and focus on skills for future.

MRRF Consultations

The independent Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB) conducted a national consultation to inform the development of the second set of MRFF Australian Medical Research and Innovation Priorities 2018-2020, and MTPConnect was consulted during the session in Brisbane.

August 2018

AFR Innovation Summit

MTPConnect attended the AFR Innovation Summit in Sydney where government, industry and academic leaders discussed the opportunities and challenges that Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence, robotics and a data driven economy pose for Australia. We participated in a roundtable discussion on how Australian science can change the world along with Professor Chris Goodnow (Garvan Institute), Kylie Walker (Science & Technology Australia & Chair, Australian National Commission for UNESCO), Dr Jackie Fairley (Starpharma) and Professor Greg Qiao (The University of Melbourne).

SINET61

Dr Grant spoke on the roundtable panel: Unleashing Industry Growth Centers: Accelerating Innovation by Connecting Global Clusters of Entrepreneurs, Investors and Buyers. He joined the Director, Cyber Security Maturity – Centre for Defence Industry Capability Sam Wong and fellow Industry Growth Centre CEOs and Managing Directors - AustCybers' Michelle Price, NERAs' Miranda Taylor, FIALs' Dr Mirjana Prica and METSIgniteds' Ric Gross in Melbourne for SINET61. Panelists explored the critical role that Cyber security and cyber resilience will play within their respective industry sectors.

Project Signings

The final three projects were approved by the MTPConnect Board of Directors to bring the total funds committed to \$15.6 million. New funding was provided to MDPP, IMNIS and Asialink.

MRFF Consultations

The MTPConnect team attended Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) Priorities Consultation by the Australian Medical Research Advisory Board (AMRAB). The team attended consultations in major capital cities to ensure that the next MRFF Priorities accurately reflect strategic research investment opportunities. Key stakeholders in the sector, including universities, medical research institutes, industry and patient advocacy groups are using the consultations to share their perspectives.



Pictured: MTPConnect CEO Dr Dan Grant with Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) Executive Director, Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea at the IMNIS launch in WA

Additional Funding Announced for IMNIS

The Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) program held their Western Australia Launch in Perth, receiving an additional grant from the MTPConnect Project fund and a sponsorship from BHP Billiton, allowing it to expand existing programs to include 10 per cent of Australia's PhD graduates in medical technologies and pharmaceuticals, service regional Universities, explore virtual mentoring, and establish its Alumni program.

Commissioning of the Titan Krios Electron Microscope

MTPConnect attended the commissioning/launch of Australia's most advanced and powerful microscope at the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) along with Senator the Hon Zed Seselja, Assistant Minister for Science Jobs and Innovation and other sector stakeholders from academia, research organisations, and government. The Titan Krios, a cryogenic electron microscope, uses electrons rather than light to look at molecules and will allow detailed mapping of molecules such as proteins and DNA.

August 2018 (continued)

Asialink: Negotiations & Influence in Chinese Contexts

MTPConnect attended the Asialink's workshop on Negotiations and Influence with a focus on Asian markets. This is a series of events under the Australia-China Life sciences Partnership Program funded through the MTPConnect Project fund Program. The workshop was based on the Consensus Building Institute's world-leading Mutual Gains Approach, built in partnership with faculty from Harvard and MIT.

Pitch Night – HealthTech Innovation Challenge 2018

Graeme Clark Institute for Biomedical Engineering, in partnership with Melbourne Academic Centre for Health & Neurosciences Victoria, organised a HealthTech Innovation Challenge to promote STEM-based interdisciplinary research and foster the translation of research that will lead to improvements in health outcomes. Eight finalists pitched for a chance to win one of four prizes of \$20,000 each and MTPConnect was a part of the judging panel.

The Actuator Bootcamp in Tasmania

MTPConnect was a guest speaker at The Actuator/Medtech's Got Talent Bootcamp in Tasmania. The event attracted more than 200 registrations to hear from The Hon. Michael Ferguson, Tasmania's Minister for Health; Prof Rufus Black, Vice Chancellor University of Tasmania; Drs Buzz Palmer (from the Actuator) and Cameron Keating (Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon – Head Tas Medtech Lab); as well as a medtech expert panel discussion followed by presentations on IP, Capital Raising, and tips for Pitching. The event highlighted the interest and opportunities for medtech entrepreneurs in Tasmania.

Precision Medicine Roundtable

MTPConnect hosted a Precision Medicine Roundtable during the ARCS Conference in Sydney facilitated by BioIntellect and GenomePlus bringing together over 30 senior representatives from industry, industry associations, government, academia, including Professor Ian Frazer. The roundtable addressed the key challenges and opportunities for Australia in relation to technology, regulation/reimbursement, commercialisation, and implementation as it relates to precision medicine. The results informed a white paper released to the sector in June 2019.

Bridge Program Occasional Speaker Series

MTPConnect's Dr Grant spoke at The Bridge Program Occasional Speaker Series at Bio21 Institute in Melbourne along with Certa Therapeutics CEO Professor Darren Kelly, and addressed the importance of the Bridge Program, highlighted its achievements to date and the value that the program is bringing to the sector.

Parliamentary Inquiry on the Digital Economy

MTPConnect's Dr Grant gave evidence to the Inquiry into the trade system and the digital economy by the Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth. The Committee is considering the responsiveness and resilience of Australia's trade architecture and regulatory system to the digital economy and disruptive technology. Dr Grant highlighted to the Committee the significant role of the MTP sector in the economy, the potential for future growth, and the role of MTPConnect and the broader Growth Centres Initiative in promoting innovation and new export opportunities.

August 2018 (continued)

L.E.K Regenerative Medicine Workshop

MTPConnect held the first of a series of national workshops to explore the opportunities and challenges for Australia to develop Regenerative Medicine as a key focus in the MTP sector. Held in Sydney, the workshop brought together a range of key opinion leaders from industry, academia, IP Australia, the TGA and sector bodies to build upon the data collected by L.E.K and MTPConnect in a national survey.

CRC-P Information Session

MTPConnect together with AusIndustry's Entrepreneurs Programme (EP) delivered a CRC-P information session for SMEs in Melbourne. The session focused on EP's Accelerating Commercialisation, business management, and innovation connection schemes; and MTPConnect shared experiences in reviewing CRC-P applications for medtech funding rounds, including key learnings, and suggestions on maximising chances of success for CRC-P applicants.

BridgeTech Program Occasional Speaker Series

MTPConnect attended our Project Fund program recipient The BridgeTech Program Occasional Speaker Series. The Series focused on educating program participants on developing IP strategies for start-ups. ANDHealth presented on propelling innovations through commercialisation in the digital health technologies landscape, and the barriers faced by the innovators in that area. Additionally, a patent attorney at FB Rice gave an informative presentation on IP in the MTP sector, with a focus on digital technologies inventions and case studies. Hydrix highlighted Victoria's leading position in the digital health tech innovations and how the state is well placed for product development and manufacturing.

September 2018

Pictured: MTPConnect CEO Dr Dan Grant with Parliamentary Secretary Chris Tallentire MLA and University of Western Australia VC Dawn Freshwater at the MTPConnect WA Hub launch at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in Perth. Photo by Rhys Woolf.



WA Hub Launch

MTPConnect – in partnership with the WA Government and the University of Western Australia – officially opened the MTPConnect WA Hub in Perth. At the launch, held at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research, MTPConnect's Dr Grant presented along with successful WA medtech companies Linear Clinical, Orthocell and Resonance Health. The MTPConnect WA hub was officially opened by WA Parliamentary Secretary for Innovation and Science, Chris Tallentire MLA. Over 100 stakeholders attended the launch which was timed to coincide with a series of events in WA, including the WA Bio Innovation Symposium, The Actuator Bootcamp and The BridgeTech Program Occasional Speaker Series.

September 2018 (continued)

Regenerative Medicine Workshop

MTPConnect hosted key opinion leaders in Regenerative Medicine at workshops in Melbourne and Perth, with attendance by key representatives from the whole value chain; from industry, government, research institutes, industry peak bodies, supply chain participants and universities.

Bio Innovation Symposium

MTPConnect attended the two-day WA BioInnovation Symposium in Perth. The Symposium, which had over 120 attendees, provided an opportunity for universities and research institutes to showcase their capabilities, research and technologies to major pharmaceutical and medtech companies and investors.

The Actuator 'MedTech's Got Talent' Bootcamp

MTPConnect attended the MedTech's Got Talent bootcamp in Perth, which was a collaboration of two of Project Fund Program recipients "The Actuator" and "Accelerating Australia". Dr Grant gave the opening address to more than 50 attendees at the event and the bootcamp gave attendees critical insights into commercialisation of their research outputs.



Pictured: MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant with Minister for Health Hon. Greg Hunt MP, Roslyn Ristsuccia from ClinTrial Refer, Professor Judith Trotman from SESLHD and SLHD, Professor David Gottlieb from the University of Sydney and patient Michael van Ewijk at Parliament House in Canberra.

ClinTrial Refer Meeting

MTPConnect's Dr Grant joined members from the ClinTrial Refer team in a meeting with the Minister for Health, Hon. Greg Hunt MP, at Parliament House in Canberra. MTPConnect's Project Fund Program partners Roslyn Ristuccia and Professor Judith Trotman from Sydney's South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLDH) and Sydney Local Health District (SLHD) were joined by Professor David Gottlieb from the University of Sydney and patient Michael van Ewijk. The meeting was an opportunity to update the Minister for Health on the project which has delivered collaboration between 840 clinical trial sites around Australia and a 64 per cent increase in trials recruitment in both rural and regional Australia.

Drug Discovery Initiative

MTPConnect presented at the launch of the Drug Discovery Initiative at the University of Sydney, explaining how the initiative will help promote the MTP sector in NSW and nationally. The Drug Discovery Initiative is a dynamic and interdisciplinary network that brings together the brightest minds, technologies and tools to enable early stage drug discovery research.

ARC ITRP19 Forum

MTPConnect presented at the Forum on its supporting role for entities in the Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP) application and review process. The Forum saw participation from all Industry Growth Centres and consisted of four presentations from successful ITRP applicants discussing their experience, tips and learnings. Since its establishment, MTPConnect has assisted entities with a pre-submission review of their translational and industry-focused product development competitive grant applications.

September 2018 (continued)



Pictured: MTPConnect CEO Dr Dan Grant with Taiwan's Institute Biotechnology Medicine Industry Deputy CEO Naricci Chang and Project Manager Sophie Wu in Melbourne.

Market Access Opportunities in Taiwan

MTPConnect's Dr Grant met with representatives from Taiwan's Institute for Biotechnology and Medicine Industry (IBMI) and Research Centre for Biotechnology and Medicine Policy (RBMP) to explore opportunities for collaboration and increased access for Australian firms and researchers to Taiwan's vibrant medtech and digital health ecosystem.

WEHI Leadership Lunch

MTPConnect's Chair and CEO both attended and presented at the WEHI leadership lunch, providing Dr Grant with the opportunity to meet key stakeholder groups and update them on MTPConnect's progress in growing the sector.

Industry Growth Centres Showcase

MTPConnect was tasked with coordinating the Growth Centres Showcase at Parliament House to inform Senators, MPs and parliamentary staff about the initiative. A steering group was set up with a representative from each GC and DIIS to begin planning the event, to be held in December 2018.

Pictured: MTPConnect CEO Dr Dan Grant with GM Stakeholder Engagement Dr Alfredo Martinez-Coll at the MedTech Conference's Australian pavilion in Philadelphia.



The MedTech Conference

MTPConnect led a delegation of 19 companies, research institutes and universities from across Australia to the MedTech Conference in Philadelphia. The pavilion was co-sponsored by the NSW, Victorian and Western Australian Governments. The MedTech Conference in North America is an essential stop for medtech companies looking to build access to international supply chains and export markets or those looking to secure collaborations or investment from the world's leading multinational companies. Dr Grant was chosen to speak on an international panel discussing the MedTech Factory of the Future and provided insights into Australia's successes in Industry 4.0 advances.

September 2018 (continued)

The Medical Alley Association MoU Re-signed

MTPConnect has expanded its alliance with the influential The Medical Alley Association of Minnesota to open-up linkages for Australian researchers and firms in the United States. Attending the 2018 MedTech Conference in Philadelphia, MTPConnect's Dr Grant and Medical Alley Association CEO Shaye Mandle signed an extended MoU to drive further collaboration between Australia and the United States to provide international access opportunities for Australian healthtech start-ups, SMEs and researchers.

KCA Annual Conference

MTPConnect's Dr Grant presented at the KCA Conference in a session on "Building a Bridge Over the Valley of Death" exploring why it is often difficult commercialising early-stage opportunities arising from research institutes and universities. Other speakers were Dr Jonathan Duckworth, Senior Lecturer, School of Media and Communication, RMIT University, Kathy Nielsen, Senior Commercialisation Manager, Monash Innovation, Monash University and Steve Rodda, CEO, UniSA Ventures.

Austrade's Singapore Mission

MTPConnect Chair Sue MacLeman led another group of Australian firms on Austrade's mission to Singapore. As well as being given a first-hand understanding of Singapore's medtech ecosystem, and its links to the broader ASEAN market, the Australian delegates were able to engage with world-leading medtech multinational companies, healthcare procurement experts, medtech/medical device distributors and potential funding partners.

October 2018

MTPConnect Appoints New Chair

Sue MacLeman commenced as Chair of MTPConnect, taking over from Dr Bronwyn Evans who stepped down after serving as Chair since establishment of MTPConnect. Previously, Ms MacLeman was the Managing Director and CEO of MTPConnect. The change is part of a transition plan agreed by the Board and the Federal Minister early this year.

Wearable Technologies Conference

MTPConnect attended the Wearable Technologies Conference in Melbourne, which is the first time it has been held in Australia since it began in 2006. The event brought together members of the wearable tech ecosystem from across the world and shared their perspectives on a wide range of wearable technologies and devices.

New Funding to Boost the Australian Healthtech Sector

MTPConnect announced three key life sciences projects – IMNIS, MDPP and Asialink Business – have been awarded a total of \$690,000 in new funding to support researchers, improve collaboration with industry and open-up international market opportunities. Both IMNIS and MDPP are recipients of funding in MTPConnect's initial 2016 Project Fund Program with Asialinks commencing as a new project.

Meeting with UTS

MTPConnect met with UTS regarding a research project they are undertaking on the current experience and future opportunities for 3D-printed bone tumor implant value chain for planning, design, excision and manufacturing. Stryker is a partner in the project.

October 2018 (continued)

RES Hub and Master of GMP at the University of Technology

MTPConnect attended the launch of the University of Technology Sydney's RES hub – a dedicated resource to allow researchers to enhance their skills, increase impact and get easy access to support. The hub was launched at the UTS researcher breakfast where MTPConnect networked with researchers and lecturers. Participants shared how the programs changed their approaches to their work as a result of the course, including how they have increased their collaboration with industry and focused on commercialisation.

2018 Prime Minister's Prize for Science Awards

MTPConnect Chair Sue MacLeman and Dr Grant attended the 2018 Prime Minister's Prize for Science at Parliament House in Canberra. Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Hon Karen Andrews MP spoke about the importance of Australian work in STEM and the Australian Ambassador for STEM Professor and Astrophysicist Lisa Harvey-Smith was also in attendance.

CSIRO Showcase

MTPConnect attended the CSIRO parliamentary showcase where CSIRO researchers demonstrated their work to MPs and Senators. Minister for Industry, Science and Technology Hon Karen Andrews MP opened the event, announcing the CSIRO Innovation Fund's \$1.25 million investment into RapidAim – a remote fruit fly monitoring system. MTPConnect is coordinating a similar showcase for the Growth Centre Initiative in December 2018 at Parliament House.

ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science

MTPConnect attended the 3D Bioprinting Workshop organised by ARC Centre of Excellence for Electromaterials Science. Four major groups working on developing bio-inks and bio-pens for institutions presented their work and latest findings, targeting cartilage regeneration, corneal wound healing, bioprinting of islets for islet transplantation. MTPConnect funded the BioFab3D@ACMD facility through the Project Fund Program and the BioPen project through BioMedTech Horizons program.

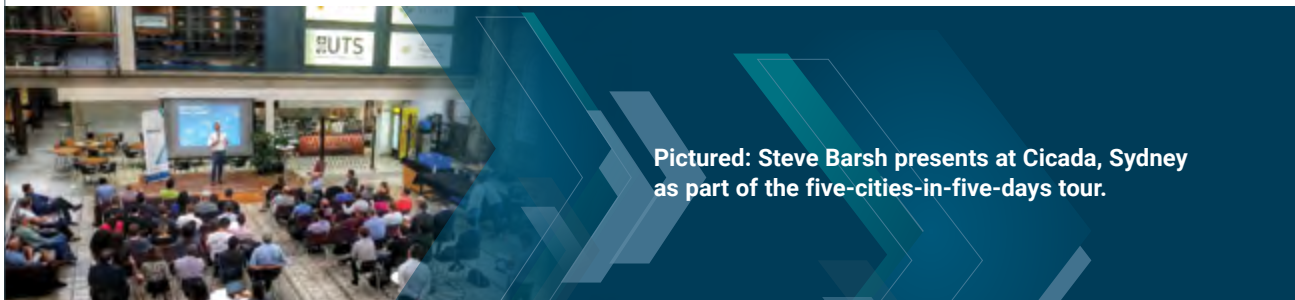
MoU with Life Sciences Queensland

MTPConnect and Queensland peak industry group Life Sciences Queensland extended their alliance to help grow Australian life sciences, with a new MoU signed.

MTPConnect's Regenerative Medicine Report Released

MTPConnect's report, Regenerative Medicine: Opportunities for Australia, was released at the AusBiotech Conference in Brisbane. The report, which provides a roadmap for elevating the sector to compete at a global level, was produced in collaboration with the AusBiotech Regenerative Medicine Advisory Group and other key stakeholders including the Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) Australia.

November 2018 (continued)



Pictured: Steve Barsh presents at Cicada, Sydney as part of the five-cities-in-five-days tour.

Steve Barsh Completes Australian Tour

DreamIt Ventures Managing Partner Steve Barsh completed a whirlwind five-cities-five-days tour of Australia, organised by MTPConnect. His presentations and conversations were well received at each event around the country, meeting with start-ups, entrepreneurs and innovators looking to take their healthtech innovation to the next level - and industry, agencies and officials looking to help them.

Clinical Challenges National Roundtables – BMTH

MTPConnect facilitated a series of clinical challenges roundtables focused on identifying the unmet needs in trauma care and Emergency Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedic and Cardiovascular. The series heard direct input from clinicians to inform the second round of the BioMedTech Horizons Program. Roundtables were held in Hobart, Adelaide, Perth and Melbourne.

Op-Ed Published in The Mandarin

“Australia poised for global success in regenerative medicine” – opinion piece by Dr Dan Grant was published in The Mandarin, with the commentary promoting MTPConnect’s Regenerative Medicine report and opportunities for the sector.

BioConnections Australia Keynote

MTPConnect’s CEO presented a keynote address at Informa Australia’s inaugural BioConnections Australia event in Melbourne. Dr Grant took attendees on a guided tour of Australia’s history in discovery and commercialisation featuring some of Australia’s great innovators Howard Florey, Sir Frank Macfarlane Burnet, John Eccles, Professor Peter Doherty, Barry Marshall, Robin Warren, Elizabeth Blackburn and John Warcup Cornforth.

Personalised Therapeutics in Focus

MTPConnect attended the ARC Centre for Personalised Therapeutics launch at the University of Melbourne. CEO Dr Grant was part of a panel discussion on transforming research translation in the MedTech/Pharma sector. He was joined by Mark Cook (University of Melbourne), Dr Amanda Caples (Victorian Government), Danica Prodanovic (BioIntelect), Robyn Owens (University of Western Australia), Andrew Gooley (Trajan Scimed), Megan Munsie (University of Melbourne) and Ian Smith (Monash University).

Working with Austrade on International Market Access Strategies

MTPConnect’s Dr Grant participated in Austrade’s health and MedTech sector workshop in Canberra which aimed to inform the way health in the MedTech sector can be promoted through widespread initiatives.

New MoUs – MTAA and AusBiotech

MTPConnect extended its alliances with the Medical Technology Association of Australia and Ausbiotech. Dr Grant joined MTAA CEO Ian Burgess to sign extended Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) at MTAA’s MedTech 18 Annual Conference in Sydney and AusBiotech CEO Lorraine Chiroiu at the AusBiotech Conference in Brisbane.

December 2018

ANDHealth Report Launch

MTPConnect supported the development and launch of a new report from ANDHealth, 'Digital Health: Creating a New Growth Industry for Australia', which explores the strengths, opportunities, constraints and barriers to the commercialisation of evidence-based digital health technologies in Australia. It details how healthcare consumers can benefit from world-leading technologies and how Australia can create a fully-fledged digital health industry.

MDPP SA MedTech Celebration

MTPConnect supported the Medical Device Partnering Program's SA MedTech End of Year Function, held at South Australian Museum. The event was attended by over 200 people from across the state's medtech sector.

Clinical Challenges Steering Committee Meeting

The final BMTH clinical challenges meeting was hosted at the MTAA in Sydney, with the Steering Committee determining the focus areas of the round two of the BMTH program.



Pictured: the MTPConnect team and guests with Hon Karen Andrews at Parliament House, Canberra, during the Growth Centre Project Showcase.

First Growth Centre Showcase at Parliament House

MTPConnect joined the five other industry growth centres in Canberra to promote our projects directly to parliamentarians and policymakers. The Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Hon Karen Andrews MP, was on hand to open proceedings and was able to engage with our Project Fund Program partners, Professor Lyn Griffiths and Anne-Maree Englund from the Bridge and BridgeTech programs, Roslyn Ristuccia from ClinTrial Refer and ANDHealth's Bronwyn Le Grice together with Planet Innovation's Stuart Elliott.

TGA Engagement

Dr Grant joined representatives from AusBiotech for an industry bilateral meeting with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA). The meeting is part of our ongoing series of engagements with the TGA and the biotech sector on effective and timely frameworks for regulation of therapeutic goods.

CT:IQ

Dr Grant attended the CT:IQ Steering Committee Meeting, where consortium members gathered to discuss the outlook for 2019. Executive Director of CTTI Pamela Tenaerts shared key lessons learned and Kylie Sproston from Bellberry Limited called for people to join the consortium to support the acceleration of clinical trials in Australia.

Op-Ed Published in Biotech Dispatch and Pharma Dispatch

"A new future for medical research funding" opinion piece by Dr Dan Grant explored opportunities for Australia's burgeoning regenerative medicine sector following the release of the MRFF's 12 research and innovation priority areas 2018-2020. The article promoted MTPConnect's regenerative medicine opportunities report.

New WA Appointment at MTPConnect

MTPConnect and our partners, the Western Australian State Government and the University of Western Australia, announced the appointment of Kevin Pflieger as Director Stakeholder Engagement for Western Australia.

January 2019

Grant Support

During January, MTPConnect has been supporting government granting programs such as the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC), Cooperative Research Centre Projects (CRC-P), ARC Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP) and Global Innovations Linkage programs.

Preparing the International Events Agenda for 2019

MTPConnect is developing its international program for 2019, which includes a strong focus on opportunities in the Asia Pacific region. The Asian Investment Series in Hong Kong and Shanghai in March is a highlight, with AusBiotech to link Australian life science companies with potential investors. BioKorea in April will focus on promoting opportunities for Australia in regenerative medicine and clinical trials. Other events being organised include delegations to BIO 2019 in Boston and the MedTech Conference in Philadelphia.

Continued Backing of ANDHealth

MTPConnect worked closely with project partner ANDHealth to finalise the scope of their new initiatives for 2019 which are being supported with additional funding from MTPConnect. ANDHealth were awarded \$250,000 to deliver intensive Digital Health Market Success Bootcamps for up to 40 Australian digital health companies.

February 2019



Pictured: Minister for Health Hon. Greg Hunt MP with MTPConnect CEO Dr Dan Grant and our partners at the launch of the Biomedical Translation Bridge program in Canberra.

Ministerial Launch – Biomedical Translation Bridge Program

The Minister for Health, Hon Greg Hunt MP, launched the Medical Research Future Fund's Biomedical Translation Bridge Program at the Canberra Innovation Network. The program is delivered by MTPConnect in partnership with BioCurate, UniQuest and the Medical Device Partnering Program, with specialist support from the Bridge and BridgeTech Programs (QUT).

Integrated Healthcare in a Digital World

As a member of the organising committee for the Australian British Health Catalyst (ABHC) 2019, Dr Grant progressed development of an action-packed agenda for the event in July 2019 in London and Cambridge which will explore key challenges and opportunities for integrated healthcare in a digital world. ABHC represents an ideal opportunity for the Australian MTP sector to engage with leaders in UK.

CRC-P Information Sessions

Throughout February and in partnership with AusIndustry's EP and AC program, MTPConnect held CRC-P Information Sessions in Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne. The sessions sold out, with attendees keen to hear advice on how to prepare a successful application.

February 2019 (continued)

Healthy Ageing Summit

MTPConnect attended the Healthy Ageing Summit at Parliament House in Canberra, addressed by Health Minister, Hon Greg Hunt MP, and Hon Ken Wyatt MP, Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Senior Australians and Aged Care. Healthy Ageing has been highlighted in the 12 research and innovation priorities set by the Medical Research Future Fund.

Clinical Trials Governance Framework Consultation Workshop

Dr Grant attended the Clinical Trials Governance Framework Consultation Workshop. This initiative aims to strengthen governance arrangements for clinical trials in Australia and support the delivery of safe and high-quality care for patients and consumers. The proposed National Clinical Trials Governance Framework also supports the integration of clinical trial service provision into routine hospital care by providing a consistent national framework for clinical governance.

Exploring Opportunities in India

MTPConnect attended a boardroom discussion with Peter Varghese AO on the India Economic Strategy, organised by Asialink Business. The India Economic Strategy has a bold target of two times the current trade and ten times the current investment. A key focus of the strategy is on greater engagement with India's health sector. Leaders from different sectors shared their thoughts on the implications and future actions for the success of this strategy.



The MTPConnect Podcast series launched

MTPConnect launched its weekly podcast series, which is free and widely available on Apple Podcast, Spotify and Stitcher. Episodes invite guest speakers to focus on MTPConnect projects, issues relating to the broader MTP sector and provide insights from key industry leaders.

The banner features a dark blue background with a clock face on the left and a person wearing headphones in the center. The text is white and yellow. A podcast icon is in the bottom right corner.

March 2019

Asian Investment Series

Dr Grant was in Hong Kong and Shanghai with the Australian delegation to AusBiotech's Asian Investment Series, exploring new market and collaboration opportunities. He gave keynote presentations on the strength of Australia's clinical trials sector and its attractiveness for investment and as a preferred destination for companies conducting clinical trials. The delegation heard from Michael Chan from the Hong Kong Exchange (HKEX) on the opportunities for raising capital in Hong Kong. Dan also met with representatives from the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park (HKSTP) and explored the precinct.

MDPP Victoria Launch

MTPConnect attended the Victorian launch of the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP), which secured additional funding from the Victorian Government through LaunchVic. The official proceedings were led by Victoria's Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade, Hon. Martin Pakula MP and the Victorian medtech community was well represented. The launch of MDPP and its Victorian state government funding highlights the value of this MTPConnect-funded program.

March 2019 (continued)

BridgeTech 2019 Launch

Dr Grant presented at the 2019 launch of the BridgeTech Program in Brisbane at QUT, welcoming the new cohort. Additional guest speakers include QUT Associate Professor Anthony Shield and University of New England Associate Professor Graham Marshall.

Pictured: MTPConnect CEO Dr Dan Grant presenting at the 2019 BridgeTech program launch in Brisbane.



Challenge-Based Innovation Forum

Dr Grant and Ms MacLeman attended the 2019 Challenge-based Innovation Forum in Canberra where experts from around the world explored how innovation-based challenges are helping organisations solve real-world problems in both public and private sectors. The forum took guidance from programs such as the SBRI/STTR Australia and is poised to expand the use of challenge-based innovation to creating opportunities for business, research and government to work together to solve real-world problems.

First Anniversary for NSW Start-Up Hub

MTPConnect attended the NSW Government's start-up hub event in Sydney, showcasing and supporting the start-up ecosystem. The facility is home to 615 emerging start-ups, connecting businesses and helping them thrive.

Cicada Innovation MedLab Demo Day

The inaugural Cicada Innovations MedLab demo day, unveiled the work of up-and-coming world-class medtech business builders with a record crowd of 500+ people attending. This included medtech enthusiasts including domestic and international investors.

Pitching at The Actuator

MTPConnect attended The Actuator's Medtech Actuator investor forum in Melbourne and the audience heard pitches from some of its early cohort including, Navi, Lenexa, Helios and Stelect.

Healthcare Immersive Technologies Symposium

MTPConnect sponsored Wise Realities' Healthcare Immersive Technologies Symposium. Attendees heard about the current state of play in the sector from WA Chief Scientist, Professor Peter Klinken, the CEO of Linear Dr Michael Winlo and Joce Young, the CEO of the Royal Perth Hospital Medical Research Foundation.

Swedish Ambassador to Australia

Dr Grant met with Swedish Ambassador to Australia, H.E. Pär Ahlberger, and the Director of HMRI Prof Michael Nilsson from the University of Newcastle, who led the Swedish healthcare delegation to Australia to explore opportunities to collaborate.

March 2019 (continued)

Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum

MTPConnect attended the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum with participants from both countries to plan and implement strategic initiatives of interest. The group discussed action items emerging from the Business Roundtable meeting with the Australian and New Zealand Prime Ministers held in February that were aligned with the interests of the health group, particularly around digital identity, data sharing and privacy laws.

Accelerate Engagement in NSW

MTPConnect met with Dr Tony Penna from NSW Health and Prof Hugh Durrant-Whyte, the NSW Chief Scientist & Engineer, to discuss ways for closer, more meaningful engagement to drive growth of the NSW MTP sector.

WA Activities

MTPConnect caught up with the Perth Angels, joined key opinion leaders from across WA at a cardiovascular symposium at The University of Western Australia and, along with 250 others, joined the Women in Data Science event. We also held the WA MTPConnect Hub Digital Health Roundtable at Wrays.

China Engagement

MTPConnect met with investors from Mizuho Securities Asia Ltd. (MHSA) who are based in Hong Kong. MHSA was keen to understand the Australian start-up ecosystem and forge collaborative opportunities with the MTP sector. MHSA has set up an accelerator program and an investment fund with the VC arm of Tsinghua University in China.

Stakeholder Engagement with iDE Group

MTPConnect met with iDE Group's CEO George Sidis and visited their premises. iDE is a medical device contract product development company akin to Planet Innovation, Design & Industry, Hydrix and more. They have a team of scientists, engineers, software developers, and regulatory expertise. Their workshop has prototyping, and low volume manufacturing capabilities.

Launch of Respiration

MTPConnect attended the launch of Respiration, a spin-off company of Telethon Kids, at the Perth Children's Hospital. This is the first investment in Western Australia from the Biomedical Translation Fund. The Medical Research Commercialisation Fund (MCRF) and Telethon Kids Institute committed up to \$20 million to Respiration and will fund a project to develop a new treatment for patients with cystic fibrosis.

The R&D Commercialisation Conference

Dr Grant delivered a keynote address at the R&D Commercialisation conference in Sydney, attended by leaders from Australia's R&D community. His presentation - Fostering Industry Growth - Building Strong Relationships to Share Expertise & Knowledge – addressed the importance of the MTP sector to Australia's R&D activities and provided key insights on strategies to drive the sector forward to stimulate economic growth and job creation.

Biomedical Translation Fund (BTF) Committee Meeting

Dr Grant presented at the BTF meeting in Canberra on the impact of MTPConnect programs - the GC project fund, BMTH and the BTB programs. The presentation showcased the strengths and milestone progress of all funded projects and highlighted how the BMTH and BTB programs are building a funnel of funding opportunities for the BTF and other venture funds.

March 2019 (continued)

BioMelbourne Network's Device & Diagnostics Lab

MTPConnect attended BioMelbourne Network's Devices and Diagnostics Lab. The event highlighted the importance of improving outcomes and delivering value across the healthcare supply chain and key strategies and trends in a focused patient-centric approach to developing medical technology.

Herston Biofabrication Institute Inaugural Conference

MTPConnect supported the Herston Biofabrication Institute's Inaugural Conference in Queensland. The theme, Building Real World Clinical Impact, provided attendees an opportunity to hear about medtech innovations in the space of Biofabrication and advanced medical materials and manufacturing. MTPConnect is proud to support the Herston Biofabrication Institute through Growth Centre Project Fund Program.

AusBiotech's WA BioCheers

MTPConnect attended AusBiotech's WA BioCheers hosted by Telethon Kids Institute and City of Perth. The highlight was the joint announcement of a WA delegation to BIO2019 in Philadelphia in June, which will be jointly led by the WA Government's Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, and the City of Perth.

April 2019



Pictured: Pictured: (L-R) Shelley Jackson (Austrade), James Choi (Australian Ambassador to Korea), Dan Grant (MTPConnect) and Rodney Commerford Trade Commissioner & Counsellor (Austrade) at BioKorea in Seoul.

BioKorea 2019

The MTPConnect team focused on the MTP market of Korea where Dr Grant attended BioKorea 2019 in support of Austrade's delegation, meeting with Australia's Ambassador to Korea, James Choi and Trade Commissioner Rodney Commerford to explore strategies for strengthening links in this important biotech market. At the conference, Dr Grant presented on the strengths of Australia's clinical trials capabilities, highlighting the factors that make Australia a country of choice for companies looking to conduct clinical trials. He also chaired a panel session on opportunities for Korean companies to leverage Australia's clinical trials expertise. He also presented the 'Medical Innovation by Regenerative Medicine - Australia Korea Regenerative Medicine' session which explored the strengths of Australia's Regenerative Medicine.

Budget Lock-up

MTPConnect Director, Dr Douglas Robertson, was joined by Dr Grant and our Chief Operating Officer Stuart Dignam at the Health portfolio budget lock-up in Canberra.

May 2019

Information Sessions on Biomedical Translation Bridge Program

MTPConnect and partners, BioCurate, UniQuest, MDPP and Bridge and BridgeTech, hosted information sessions for potential applicants to the BTB program in Melbourne at the VCCC, Canberra at the Australian National University, Hobart at the University of Tasmania, Geelong at Deakin University, the Gold Coast at Griffith University and Brisbane at the Translational Research Institute. The sessions were well attended with great engagement and many questions about how to access funding under the BTB program.

State Government and International Engagement

Dr Grant had high level engagement meetings with state government officials in Queensland including representatives responsible for MTP growth, manufacturing, state and regional development. These meetings are a part of our continuing work with state governments including the Victorian, NSW and WA governments to concentrate our efforts in growing the MTP sector across Australia. Dr Grant also met with representatives from the Hong Kong Science and Technology Park with Austrade and the Victorian Government to promote the value of conducting clinical trials in Australia.

CRC Association Conference

MTPConnect attended the CRC Association Conference held in Adelaide. The Industry Growth Centres convened for a breakfast event, updating the audience on progress in each of the respective sectors. The Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, Hon Karen Andrews MP, spoke at the CRC Association Conference about the role that science and STEM can play in growing the economy and the environment.

Bridge Program 2019 Launch & BridgeTech Symposium

Dr Grant presented at the Bridge Program 2019 Launch of its third cohort at QUT in Brisbane. He also outlined the new Biomedical Translation Bridge (BTB) program to the audience of researchers, entrepreneurs and Bridge consortium partners. Dr Grant also presented at the BridgeTech 2019 Symposium in Melbourne joining the new BridgeTech cohort and the consortium partners.

Pictured: (L-R) Laura Issa (Abbvie), Stuart England (Janssen), Anand Gautam (Pfizer), Cynthia Cliff (QUT), Brett Roberts (Novartis), Anne-Maree England (MSD), David Thomson (Amgen), Dr Dan Grant (MTPConnect) and Professor Lyn Griffiths at the 2019 Bridge Program launch in Queensland.



Ausmedtech

MTPConnect attended AusBiotech's Ausmedtech 2019 Conference in Melbourne. AusBiotech CEO Lorraine Chiroiu and Victorian Minister for Jobs, Innovation, Trade and Tourism Hon. Martin Pakula MP opened proceedings which had a focus on 'Bionics and beyond'.

Announcement of Organisational Refresh

MTPConnect announced an organisational restructure to focus resources on delivering programs and driving the next phase of growth and the sector's growth. The changes include Dr Grant joining the MTPConnect Board as Managing Director and continuing in his role as CEO. Stuart Dignam was promoted from General Manager Corporate Communications & Policy to become Chief Operating Officer to support Dan in delivering and executing MTPConnect's expanded portfolio of programs.

May 2019 (continued)

ACTA Trial of the Year Awards

MTPConnect supported the ACTA Trial of the Year Awards alongside Medicines Australia, the NHRMC, MTAA, the Skin & Cancer Association, Research Australia, CT:IQ and others. Dr Grant presented on Australia's capabilities in the clinical trial space and announced the release of our clinical trials podcast episode, Oranges and Lemons - and the World's First Clinical Trial which features Dr Grant, GSK Australia's Carrie Bloomfield, CT:IQ's Leanne Weekes and Deep 6 AI's Eric Gildenhuis discussing a range of issues in relation to clinical trials and marking International Clinical Trials Day.

Pictured L-R: Recording the MTPConnect podcast episode, 'Oranges and Lemons-and the World's First Clinical Trial' with GSK Australia's Carrie Bloomfield, CT:IQ's Leanne Weekes, MTPConnect's Stuart Dignam and Dr Dan Grant, with Deep 6 AI's Eric Gildenhuis (on the phone from California).



June 2019

BIO International Convention

The MTPConnect team travelled to Philadelphia with AusBiotech, Medicines Australia and Austrade as part of the largest ever Australian delegation to the BIO International Convention. As well as some of Australia's leading MTP companies, the Australian delegation consisted of state government representatives from WA, QLD, NSW, VIC and SA, including WA Deputy Premier and Minister for Health Hon. Roger Cook MLA, QLD Minister for Innovation Hon Kate Jones MP, WA Chief Scientist Peter Klinken, NSW Office of Health and Medical Research's Anne O'Neill, Professor Ian Frazer from the MRFF and others. MTPConnect recorded and published a podcast episode at BIO2019, featuring interviews with many members of the Australian delegation and prominent international biotech and pharma executives. The episode was titled Opening Up International Markets: On The Ground at BIO 2019.

Pictured: WA delegation led by WA Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, Hon. Roger Cook and Chief Scientist Prof Peter Klinken.



BioMedTech Horizons

The second round of the BioMedTech Horizons program opened for expressions of interest. The \$45 million program makes funding available for SMEs to develop new health biological and medical technologies to reach proof-of-concept, so they are attractive for private capital investment and commercialisation. For this round the focus is on four therapeutic areas – ophthalmology, cardiovascular, orthopaedics and emergency medicine/trauma. EOIs can be lodged via the SmartyGrants online portal and close mid-July.

June 2019 (continued)

Biomedical Translation Bridge Information Sessions

MTPConnect wrapped up its Australia-wide BTB program information sessions, along with partners BioCurate, UniQuest, the Medical Device Partnering Program and the Bridge and BridgeTech programs. This national series was delivered to major regional centres as well as the capital cities. More than 500 participants attended these sessions throughout May and June, with visits made to Melbourne, Canberra, Hobart, Geelong, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Townsville, Newcastle, Wollongong, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth.

Pictured: Sydney BTB Information Session attendees and partners BioCurate, UniQuest, the Medical Device Partnering Program and the Bridge and BridgeTech programs at the University of Sydney.



Guest of the Chair Program

In a new initiative, MTPConnect opened expressions of interest for candidates to join MTPConnect in the capacity of a Guest of the Chair. Over a six-month period, the chosen candidate will participate in MTPConnect Board meetings and activities with the aim of broadening their understanding and knowledge of how boards operate, including corporate and not-for-profit governance.

Innovate Health

MTPConnect was one of the key sponsors of Informa Australia's Innovate Health conference, held at the RACV Club in Melbourne. Dr Grant presented the first keynote on emerging megatrends in health and medical research. He joined other presenters including HCF Chief Officer Strategy & Transformation Tony Wessling and ANDHealth CEO & Founder Bronwyn Le Grice who addressed strategies for success in digital health.

Publications Issued

In June, after months of development, collaboration and research, the following publications were released to our stakeholders highlighting insights and analysis of key sector issues.



The MTPConnect Sector Competitiveness Plan



How Global MedTech & Pharma Corporates Engage with Australia



Precision Medicine Roundtable White Paper

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES

Published reports, promotional material, podcast series episodes, media publicity, and other documentation relevant to promoting the activities of MTPConnect are detailed in this chapter, covering the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019.



Case Studies and Media Coverage

Case studies are prepared to share ideas and learnings from funded projects, and also celebrate milestone achievements and highlight collaborative connections. These resources are updated regularly and uploaded to the MTPConnect website.

Media coverage (mainstream and trade media) relates to events and announcements involving MTPConnect and the sector.

Quarter 1

Case studies:

DoseMe

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=77

Media:

During this period, we distributed media releases for the launch of the MTPConnect WA Hub partnership with the University of Western Australia and the WA State Government, garnering traction in both mainstream and trade media:

Lab and Life Scientist - Transforming trials through public-private collaborations
[PDF saved in media clippings folder in corporate communications](#)

UWA - New hub to boost life sciences and innovation research

<http://www.news.uwa.edu.au/2018070310740/boost-life-sciences-and-innovation-research>

Manufacturer's Monthly - MTPConnect launches Western Australian Node

<http://www.manmonthly.com.au/news/mtpconnect-launches-western-australian-node/>

Biotech Dispatch - MTPConnect launches Western Australian Node

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/mtpconnect-launches-western-australian-node>

PR Wire - Kesem Health Selected for ANDHealth+ 2018, Australia's only Mid-stage Digital Health Program

<https://prwire.com.au/pr/78276/kesem-health-selected-for-andhealth-2018-australia-s-only-mid-stage-digital-health-program>

The Australian Financial Review - Innovation is part of Australia's DNA. We must help commercialise it.

<https://www.afr.com/opinion/columnists/innovation-is-part-of-australias-dna-we-must-help-commercialise-it-20180729-h139wp>

Defence Connect - National Innovation Award for DMTC project team

<https://www.defenceconnect.com.au/key-enablers/2855-national-innovation-award-for-dmtc-project-team>

BioWorld "Australian government growth centers invest in life sciences sector for future global growth"

<http://www.bioworld.com/content/australian-government-growth-centers-invest-life-sciences-sector-future-global-growth>

Quarter 2

Case studies:

Building a National MedTech Ideas Incubator

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=81

The Emergence of Australian Regenerative Medicine

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=82

Clinical Trial Assist: Recruiting for Better Clinical Trials

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=86

The Journey Towards a CRC-P Grant

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=87

A Library of Compounds Holds Promise of New Medicines

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=89

Guiding More Investment in Life Sciences

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=90

Media:

From October to December 2018, MTPConnect was featured in media relating to the news of Sue MacLeman commencing as Chair, three projects receiving funding, the launch of the Regenerative Medicine report and MTPConnect extension of funding for an additional two years to 2021.

The Lead SA, Medical partnering program expands into Victoria

<http://theleadsouthaustralia.com.au/industries/health/medical-partnering-program-expands-into-victoria/>

Biotech Daily, Sue MacLeman Starts as MTPConnect Chair

BioSpace, MTPConnect Has a New Chair

<https://www.biospace.com/article/new-chair-for-mtpconnect/>

Biotech Dispatch, New Chair starts for MTPConnect

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/new-chair-starts-for-mtpconnect>

OpenGov Asia, LaunchVic to boost Victorian medtech sector

<https://www.opengovasia.com/launchvic-to-boost-victorian-medtech-sector/>

Flinders University, National boost for medical tech pipeline

<https://news.flinders.edu.au/blog/2018/10/03/national-boost-medical-tech-pipeline/>

MDPP, NEW FUNDING FROM MTPCONNECT TO SUPPORT NATIONAL EXPANSION

<https://mdpp.org.au/news-and-events/news/new-funding-from-mtpconnect-to-support-national-expansion>

Lab and Life Scientist, \$690,000 in funding for three life science projects

<https://www.labonline.com.au/content/lab-business/news/-690-000-in-funding-for-three-life-science-projects-642287859>

BioSpace, MTPConnect announces \$690,000 in new funding to three key Australian life sciences projects

<https://www.biospace.com/article/-mtpconnect-announces-690-000-in-new-funding-to-three-key-australian-life-sciences-projects/>

Biotech Dispatch, MTPConnect funds three more projects

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/mtpconnect-funds-three-more-projects>

Healthcare IT, Health tech funding injection to propel Australian innovations to market and into Asia

<https://www.healthcareit.com.au/article/health-tech-funding-injection-propel-australian-innovations-market-and-asia>

The Australian, Hope for regenerative medicine bonanza

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/business/hope-for-regenerative-medicine-bonanza/news-story/4b6eaf92951a5f4db38f8f30104e98e2>

DIIS, Report points way for regenerative medicine

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/karenandrews/media-releases/report-points-way-regenerative-medicine>

Pharma In Focus, Regenerative billions for Aust

<https://www.pharmainfocus.com.au/news.asp?newsid=14135>

Biotech Daily, MTPConnect, Federal Government: '\$6b Regenerative Medicine'

Pharma Dispatch, New report highlights regenerative medicine opportunity

Biotech Dispatch, New report highlights regenerative medicine opportunity

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/new-report-highlights-regenerative-medicine-opportunity>

BioSpace, Australia poised for global success in regenerative medicine

<https://www.biospace.com/article/australia-poised-for-global-success-in-regenerative-medicine/>

Medical Device & Diagnostic Industry, Are You Ready for the Factory of the Future?

<https://www.mddionline.com/are-you-ready-factory-future>

BioWorld, Australia aims to become regenerative medicine hub for the Asia Pacific region *PDF saved in media clippings folder in corporate communications*

Biotech Dispatch, AusBiotech signs new alliance with MTPConnect

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/ausbiotech-signed-new-alliance-with-mtpconnect>

The Mandarin, Australia poised for global success in regenerative medicine

<https://www.themandarin.com.au/100925-australia-poised-for-global-success-in-regenerative-medicine/>

BioSpace, MTPConnect welcomes additional Federal Government funding

<https://www.biospace.com/article/mtpconnect-welcomes-additional-federal-government-funding/?keywords=mtpconnect>

Biotech Daily, Federal \$10m For MTPConnect

Biotech Dispatch, AusBiotech congratulates MTPConnect on new funding

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/ausbiotech-congratulates-mtpconnect-on-new-funding>

Pharma Dispatch, MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant: A new future for medical research funding

<https://pharmadispatch.com/news/a-new-future-for-medical-research-funding>

Biotech Dispatch, MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant: A new future for medical research funding

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/mtpconnects-dr-dan-grant-a-new-future-for-medical-research-funding>

Quarter 3

Case studies:

Vaccine Exchange: Building a Vibrant Community

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=91

Training the Next Generation of MedTech and Pharma Leaders

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=93

Smartphone scanning set to revolutionise treatment of ear conditions

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=94

Making Waves in Cell Therapies

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=95

Tackling Rare and Solid Cancers Head On

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=97

Media:

Media mentions of MTPConnect in this quarter highlighted the continued backing of project partner ANDHealth and the launch of the Biomedical Translation Bridge program, to be implemented and operated by MTPConnect.

Renewed backing for digital health commercialisation initiative, MTPConnect

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Story?Action=View&Story_id=178

Tech development, regulation, investment and implementation key to digital health, Healthcare IT

<https://www.healthcareit.com.au/article/tech-development-regulation-investment-and-implementation-key-digital-health>

Renewed backing for digital health commercialisation initiative, Mirage News

<https://www.miragenews.com/renewed-backing-for-digital-health-commercialisation-initiative/>

MTPConnect support for industry back digital health accelerator,
Biotech Dispatch

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/mtpconnect-support-for-industry-back-digital-health-accelerator>

"We have a bold vision for regenerative medicine", BioSpectrum Asia

PDF saved in media clippings folder in corporate communications

\$22 million to fast track early stage research, Department of Health

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/health-mediarel-yr2019-hunt023htm?OpenDocument&yr=2019&mth=02>

\$22 million to fast track early stage research, DIIS

<https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/karenandrews/media-releases/22-million-fast-track-early-stage-research>

MTPConnect welcomes Biomedical Translation Bridge program opportunity, Mirage News

<https://www.miragenews.com/mtpconnect-welcomes-biomedical-translation-bridge-program-opportunity/>

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, Biotech Daily

PDF saved in media clippings folder in corporate communications

A\$22 million to fast track early-stage research in Australia, Pharma Letter

<https://www.thepharmaletter.com/article/a-22-million-to-fast-track-early-stage-research-in-australia>

Partnership to manage Biomedical Translation Bridge Program, Biotech Dispatch

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/partnership-to-manage-biomedical-translation-bridge-program>

Government announces \$22.3m in funding for early stage research, Australian Manufacturing

<http://www.australianmanufacturing.com.au/66599/government-announces-22-3m-in-funding-for-early-stage-research>

Medtech Innovations get \$22m injection, InDaily

<https://indaily.com.au/news/sponsored-content/2019/02/21/medtech-innovations-get-22m-injection/>

MTPConnect driving solid growth, InnovationAus

<https://www.innovationaus.com/2019/02/MTPConnect-industry-growth-centre-sees-solid-industry-growth>

\$22 Million For Early Stage Research, PulseLine

<http://www.pulseline.com.au/future-of-medtech/22-million-early-stage-research>

New funding to boost Australian medical tech innovations, OpenGov Asia

<https://www.opengovasia.com/new-funding-to-boost-australian-medical-tech-innovations/>

This small cap biotech proves it is possible to have more women than men on a board, Stockhead

<https://stockhead.com.au/news/this-small-cap-biotech-proves-it-is-possible-to-have-more-women-than-men-on-a-board/>

Quarter 4

Case studies:

Developing Good Manufacturing Practice

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=98

Showcasing Australian Health Innovation

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=99

Building a Bridge Towards Commercialisation

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Article?Action=View&Article_id=100

Media:

Media mentions of MTPConnect in this quarter highlighted the Australian delegation to the WA hub, BIO 2019 and the launch of the Precision Medicine Roundtable White Paper.

Kevin Pflieger appointed director of WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub, UWA news

<http://www.news.uwa.edu.au/2019050911382/appointments/kevin-pflieger-appointed-director-wa-life-sciences-innovation-hub>

Inside WA's cutting-edge medical innovation hub, The West Australian

<https://thewest.com.au/lifestyle/health-wellbeing/hub-for-unsung-heroes-ng-b881191661z>

Investment in medical tech to pay healthy dividends, Business News

<https://www.businessnews.com.au/article/Investments-in-medical-tech-to-pay-healthy-dividends>

Australia takes BIO 'by storm' with largest ever delegation, BioWorld

https://www.mtpconnect.org.au/Story?Action=View&Story_id=203

Global medtech and pharma firms engaging with Australia, Biotech Dispatch

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/global-medtech-and-pharma-firms-engaging-with-australia>

BioMedTech Horizons Grant Round Two Opens, Biotech Dispatch

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/biomedtech-horizons-grant-round-two-opens>

Profound change required to integrate precision medicines, Biotech Dispatch

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/medlab-receives-ethics-approval-for-second-the-second-nanabis-tr>

'Divesting' older technologies will be required, Biotech Dispatch

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/divesting-older-technologies-will-be-required>

Drug pathways under question, Pharma in Focus

Join the delegation to MedTech Conference, Boston, Biotech Dispatch

<https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/join-the-delegation-to-medtech-conference-boston>

The MTPConnect Podcast Series

The MTPConnect Podcast series, launched in February 2019, is a weekly podcast that promotes the people, projects and issues behind the Australian medical technologies, biotechnologies and pharmaceuticals sector. The following metrics highlight the audience reach and the most popular episodes.

Total number of listens:

4,680 (to 30 June 2019)

5,200 (to 31 October 2019)

Podcast Chart Top Ten Most Popular Episodes by plays

1.	The Lowdown – everything you need to know about the Biomedical Translation Bridge program	253
2.	Episode 1 - BTB & CRC-P	227
3.	Oranges and Lemons - and the World's First Clinical Trial	220
4.	Opening up International Markets: On the Ground at BIO 2019	190
5.	Exploring Emerging Megatrends to Innovate Your Health	188
6.	Spotlight: MTP skills and manufacturing capabilities with TRI & Vaxxas	188
7.	Kath & Kate - Enhancing MedTech Innovation in WA	169
8.	Meet MTPConnect Chair – Sue MacLeman	166
9.	From Queensland to Iceland and Back: Spend a Day in a Life Sciences Life	166
10.	Spotlight: Partnering for Medical Device Success	160

Podcast Chart Top 10 Countries by listens

1.	Australia	1,024
2.	United States	106
3.	Taiwan	17
4.	Germany	16
5.	United Kingdom	15
6.	Spain	11
7.	Canada	4
8.	New Zealand	4
9.	Russia	3
10.	Finland	2



Picture: The podcast team visits WA



Pictured: Dr Shanny Dyer, CEO of GC project partner ARCS Australia being interviewed by MTPConnect's Shannan Osrin.

The following episodes were produced and published during FY2019 and can be accessed via the MTPConnect website or via platforms such as Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Stitcher.

Podcast Episodes in February 2019

- [Episode 1: BTB & CRC-P](#) – with CEO Dr Dan Grant and GM Stakeholder Engagement Dr Alfredo Martinez-Coll discussing the launch of the Biomedical Translation Bridge Program and the CRC-P national information sessions in partnership with AusIndustry.
- [Venture Forward](#) – MTPConnect attended ANDHealth's Women in Digital Health Lunch in Melbourne to talk to an American venture capitalist Lisa Suennen and get her advice on how Australian Digital Health companies can enter the USA.

Podcast Episodes in March 2019

- [Opening Up International Markets: On the Ground in Hong Kong](#) discussion with our CEO, on the ground in Hong Kong for Asian Investment Series
- [Spotlight: Health Innovations are on the Horizon](#) - Healthtech start-up Health Horizon, supported through the GC Project Fund Program
- [Breaking News: \\$150M Stem Cell Research Injection](#) – discussion with Professor Melissa Little and Professor Mark Kendall regarding establishment of the Stem Cell Mission to boost health and medical research in Australia
- [Spotlight: CCRM AU & Future Therapies](#) - on CCRM Australia, supported through the GC Project Fund Program, and regenerative medicine

Podcast Episodes in **April** 2019:

- [Spotlight: Take a Tour of St Vincent's BioFab3D Lab](#) with BioFab3D Centre Director Dr Cathal O'Connell
- [Opening up International Markets: How to Break into the United States](#) with Medical Alley Association's VP of Intelligence Frank Jaskulke
- [Spotlight: Building a Bridge Towards Commercialisation](#) with QUT Executive Director Professor Lyn Griffiths

Podcast Episodes in **May** 2019:

- [Spotlight: Partnering for Medical Device Success](#) with MDPP Director Prof Karen Reynolds and Regional Director Prof Sally McArthur
- [Spotlight: Boosting Mentoring in MedTech and Pharma](#) with IMNIS Executive Director Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea
- [Spotlight: Preparing for BIO 2019 with AusBiotech](#) with AusBiotech CEO Lorraine Chiroiu
- [Oranges and Lemons - and the World's First Clinical Trial](#) with CT:IQ Program Director Leanne Weekes, GSK Australia's Head of Clinical Research Carrie Bloomfield and from California, Deep 6 AI Vice President Eric Gildenhuys
- [Meet MTPConnect's Chair – Sue MacLeman.](#)

Podcast Episodes in **June** 2019:

- [Opening up International Markets: On the Ground at BIO 2019](#) with Australian BIO delegates
- [The Lowdown – everything you need to know about the Biomedical Translation Bridge program](#) with BTB partners
- [Advancing STEM Education with BioEYES](#) with Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute Outreach Education Coordinator Laura Reid
- [From Queensland to Iceland and Back: Spend a Day in a Life Sciences Life](#) with MTPConnect Managing Director & CEO Dr Dan Grant and WuXi NextCODE Chief Strategy Officer Alex Fowkes

Published Reports

During the year, several comprehensive reports were published and promoted to the sector via events and digital media (website page views):

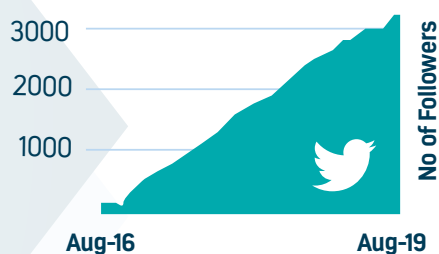
1. How Global Medtech and Pharma Corporates Engage with Australia	479
2. Precision Medicine Roundtable White Paper	533
3. Regenerative Medicine: Opportunities for Australia	1,278
4. Sector Competitiveness Plan	2,769



Social Media

Twitter is the preferred communication channel for MTPConnect to widely promote its activities. The following metrics outline the increasing engagement of our stakeholders.

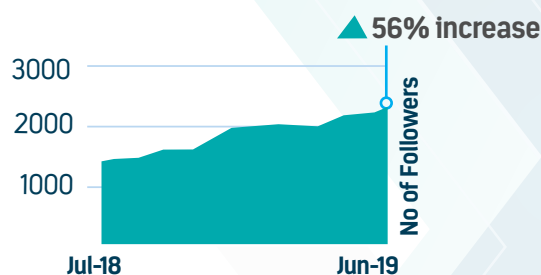
MTPConnect Twitter account
Twitter followers



Followers – 3400

Average rate of impressions – 226,683

MTPConnect LinkedIn



Followers – 2300

Total impressions in FY19 was 165,476

FINANCIAL INFORMATION AND DIRECTORS' REPORT

A financial report on MTPConnect

Annual Financial Statements
MTP-IIGC LTD
ABN 53 608 571 277

For the year ended 30 June 2019

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Directors' Report

MTP-IIGC LTD

For the year ended 30 June 2019

The directors present their report together with the financial statements of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2019.

Directors

The following persons were directors of MTP-IIGC LTD during the whole of the financial year and up to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

- **Ms Sue MacLeman**
- **Dr Nicholas Cerneaz**
- **Dr Douglas Robertson**
- **Ms Julie Phillips**
- **Dr Daniel Grant (Appointed 20 May 2019)**
- **Dr Bronwyn Evans (Resigned 01 October 2018)**

Principal activities

During the financial year the principal activities of the Company were to boost the competitiveness, productivity and innovative capacity of Australia's Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals sector by identifying opportunities to reduce regulatory burden, increasing collaboration and commercialisation, improving capabilities to engage with international markets and global supply chains and enhancing management and workforce skills.

Short-term and Long-term Objectives

The company's short-term objectives are to:

- Accelerate industry initiatives aimed at enhancing competitiveness and productivity, in particular those that have the strongest impact on supporting SMEs.
- Increase coordination across the sector to link industry public and private research organisations to state and Australian Government initiatives, reduce duplication and identify opportunities for alignment.
- Develop a more competitive market for investment and funding.
- Build a skills and knowledge base to embed a commercialisation culture that pulls research through to market development.
- Improve capabilities to engage with international markets and global supply chains.

The company's long-term objectives are to:

- Create a vibrant and prosperous MTP Sector.
- Build, strengthen and expand the connections for long term sector success:
 - Facilitate collaboration.
 - Educate and disseminate knowledge.
 - Identify and encourage the removal of unnecessary regulatory barriers.
 - Redefine and execute next phase of programs.
 - Establish a sustainable funding base for MTPConnect.

Strategies

To achieve its stated objectives, the company will take action, be an independent voice and fund projects to achieve the following strategies:

- Identify and promote Knowledge Priorities focused on current and future market needs.
- Create a highly productive commercialisation environment from research to early clinical trials and proof-of- concept.
- Transform the SME sub-sector to support the growth of smaller companies into larger, more stable and successful companies.
- Support the development of digitally enabled MTP solutions: devices and data analytics.
- Strengthen Australia as an attractive clinical trial research destination.
- Position Australia as the preferred partner for merging Asian markets.
- Support advanced manufacturing as part of the broader Australian innovation ecosystem. Significant changes in the state of affairs

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the financial year.

Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year

Apart from matters already disclosed in this report, no other matter or circumstance has arisen since balance date that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Company or the results of its operations in future financial years.

Likely developments and expected results of operations

Information on likely developments in the operations of the Company and the expected results of operations have not been included in this report because the directors believe it would be likely to result in unreasonable prejudice to the Company.

Environmental regulation

The Company is not subject to any significant environmental regulation under Australian Commonwealth or State law.

Information on directors

Ms Sue MacLeman

Chair

Sue MacLeman has more than 30 years' experience as a pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology executive having held senior roles in corporate, medical, commercial and business development. Sue has also served as CEO and Board member of several ASX and NASDAQ listed companies in the pharmaceutical sector and is currently Chair of MTPConnect (MTP-IIGC Ltd), Chair of Anantara Lifesciences Ltd (ASX:ANR), Chair of Novita Healthcare Ltd (ASX:NHL), Non-Executive Director of Palla Pharma Ltd (ASX:PAL), Non-Executive Director of Oventus Medical Ltd (ASX:OVN) and Non-Executive Director of veski. Sue is also appointed to several academic and government advisory committees.

Dr Nicholas Cerneaz

Non-Executive Director (Re-elected 15 Nov 2017)

Dr Cerneaz has been building companies to commercialise academic research for more than two decades. After gaining a D. Phil (doctorate) in mammography technologies assisting the management of breast cancer from Oxford University in the early 1990s, he has worked extensively guiding the development of a number of medical technology startup companies, covering fields from radiology, oncology, ophthalmology, pathology and immunology. Other industrial experience includes automation and process optimisation in heavy manufacturing and process industries, astronomy instrumentation design and implementation, and advanced computer vision safety systems for the automotive industry.

Dr Cerneaz has previously been a director of NFP and AIM listed companies, and advisor to both research and education sector enterprises.

Dr Douglas Robertson

Non-Executive Director (Re-elected 28 Nov 2018)

Dr Robertson has been the Director of Research Services at The Australian National University since July 2013 and has over 30 years' experience in research, economic development, technology transfer, spin-out companies and commercialisation in the UK and Australia. During that time he has negotiated over \$3bn of research funding, served on the boards of over 20 technology companies and assisted the establishment of over 20 other early stage technology businesses.

Dr Robertson was a founding Director of PraxisAuril (formerly Praxis), a major UK and international technology transfer and training association, from 2003-2013 and Chair in 2012 and 2013. Dr Robertson serves on the boards of four NCRIS facilities and is passionate about seeing the outcomes of research leading to economic and social benefit.

Ms Julie Phillips

Non-Executive Director (Re-elected 15 Nov 2017)

Julie Phillips has a strong background in the biotech and pharmaceutical industry, having worked as the CEO and Director of start-up Australian biotechnology companies operating in the life sciences sector. Her technical background is in clinical trials, regulatory affairs and pharmacoeconomic assessment/pricing of therapeutics. Ms Phillips is currently Chair of AusBiotech Ltd, the peak biotechnology industry association in Australia, CEO and Director of biotechnology company, BioDiem Ltd and its subsidiary Opal Biosciences, Ltd. She is a member of the Council of the University of Newcastle, Innovation Australia's R&D Incentive Committee and the NH&MRC's Health Innovation Advisory Committee.

Dr Daniel Grant

Executive Director

Dr Dan Grant has spent more than 25 years in senior roles in the pharmaceutical, higher education and medical research sectors. Prior to joining MTPConnect, Dr Grant was the inaugural Pro Vice Chancellor for Industry Engagement at La Trobe University where he had oversight of the university's innovation, commercialisation and industry engagement activities. He was also the Senior Director and Head of Pfizer's External Research and Development Innovation group for ANZ/Singapore and their head of open innovation. Dr Grant was also a member of the United Nations ESCAP SBN Task Force on innovation and competitiveness. He has a PhD in Cardiovascular Physiology and an MBA.

Meetings of directors

The number of meetings of the board of the Company during the year ended 30 June 2019 and number of meetings attended by each director were:

	Board		Audit		Remuneration	
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Dr Bronwyn Evans	2	3	-	-	-	-
Ms Sue MacLeman	10	10	-	-	2	2
Dr Nicholas Cerneaz	10	10	4	4	-	-
Dr Douglas Robertson	10	1	4	4	-	-
Ms Julie Phillips	10	10	-	-	2	2
Dr Daniel Grant	2	2	-	-	-	-

Rounding

The amounts contained in this report and in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest \$1 (where rounding is applicable) and where noted (\$) under the option available to the Company under ASIC CO 98/0100. The Company is an entity to which the class order applies

Auditor's independence declaration

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under s.60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-forprofits Commission Act 2012 is included in page 7 of this financial report and forms part of the Company' Report.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of Board of directors of the Company and is signed on behalf of the directors by:

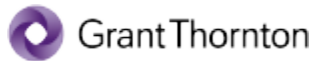


Ms Sue MacLeman
21 August 2019
Melbourne



Dr Daniel Grant
21 August 2019
Melbourne

Auditor's Independence Declaration



Collins Square, Tower 5
727 Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3008

Correspondence to:
GPO Box 4736
Melbourne VIC 3001

T +61 3 8320 2222
F +61 3 9320 2200
E info.vic@au.gt.com
W www.granthornton.com.au

Auditor's Independence Declaration

To the Directors of MTP-IIGC LTD

In accordance with the requirements of section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, as lead auditor for the audit of MTP-IIGC LTD for the year ended 30 June 2019, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- b no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

M A Cunningham
Partner - Audit & Assurance

Melbourne, 21 August 2019

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www.granthornton.com.au

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Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

MTP-IIGC LTD

For the year ended 30 June 2019

Income	Notes	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
			\$
Grants	2	13,508,801	6,971,386
Interest		40,894	22,328
Other Revenue		112,324	-
Total Income		13,662,019	6,993,714
Expenses			
Travel and accommodation		286,597	221,535
Accounting, legal & audit		245,943	162,082
Depreciation		25,636	21,257
Employment Costs		1,683,010	1,671,018
Consulting Fees		274,975	382,715
Corporate communications & sponsorship		275,227	423,881
Office and Administration		174,539	173,475
Sector Support Projects		915,250	229,562
Project Funding		9,739,948	3,685,861
Total Expenses		13,621,125	6,971,386
Surplus before taxation		40,894	22,328
Net surplus for the period		40,894	22,328
Total comprehensive surplus for the period		40,894	22,328

Statement of Financial Position

MTP-IIGC LTD

As at 30 June 2019

	Notes	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
		\$	\$
Assets			
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	31,844,959	21,079,766
Trade and other receivables	4	45,620	181,415
<u>Total Current Assets</u>		31,890,579	21,261,181
<u>Non-Current Assets</u>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	28,639	23,820
<u>Total Non-Current Assets</u>		28,639	23,820
Total Assets		31,919,218	21,285,001
Liabilities			
<u>Current Liabilities</u>			
Trade and other payables	6	2,439,319	638,631
Deferred Income	7	29,307,741	20,506,542
Provisions	8	70,321	78,885
<u>Total Current Liabilities</u>		31,823,803	21,224,058
Total Liabilities		31,817,381	21,224,058
Net Assets		101,837	60,943
Equity			
Current Year Earnings		40,894	22,328
Retained Earnings (Members Funds)		60,943	38,615
Total Equity		101,837	60,943

Statement of Changes in Equity

MTP-IIGC LTD

For the year ended 30 June 2019

Equity	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Opening Balance	60,943	38,615
<i>Increases</i>		
Net surplus for the period	40,894	22,328
Total comprehensive surplus for the period	40,894	22,328
Total Equity	101,837	60,943

Statement of Cash Flows

MTP-IIGC LTD

For the year ended 30 June 2019

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Cash flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from grants for internal funding and deployment of projects	22,452,556	22,002,000
Payments to suppliers, employees and deployment of projects	(11,808,255)	(6,619,973)
Interest received	39,024	21,078
Cash receipts from other operating activities	112,324	-
Total Cash flows from Operating Activities	10,795,698	15,403,105
Cash flows from Investing Activities		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(30,455)	(6,570)
Total Cash flows from Investing Activities	(30,455)	(6,570)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	10,765,193	15,396,535
Cash Balance		
Opening cash balance	21,079,766	5,683,231
Closing cash balance	31,844,959	21,079,766

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

a. Basis of Preparation

MTP-IIGC LTD applies Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements as set out in AASB 1053:

Application of Tiers of Australian Accounting Standards and AASB 2010–2: Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from Reduced Disclosure Requirements.

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 134 Interim Financial Reporting, Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The company is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The financial statements were authorised for issue on 21 August 2019 by the Directors of the Company.

b. Changes in accounting policy, disclosures, standards and interpretations

The accounting policies adopted by the Company are consistent with the most recent Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2018, except for the changes in the below policies:

(a) AASB 9 Financial Instruments - Impact of adoption

AASB 9 replaces the provisions of AASB 139 that relate to the recognition, classification and measurement of financial assets and financial liabilities, derecognition of financial instruments, impairment of financial assets and hedge accounting. The Company has applied AASB 9 retrospectively, with the initial application date of 1 July 2018. Adoption of AASB 9 has resulted in changes in accounting policies but no adjustment to the financial statements at 1 July 2018. The new accounting policies are set out in note 1.2(b) below.

(b) AASB 9 Financial Instruments - Accounting policies applied from 1 July 2018

(i) Financial Assets & Liabilities

Impairment

From 1 July 2018, the Group assesses on a forward looking basis the expected credit losses associated with its debt instruments carried at amortised cost and FVOCI. The impairment methodology applied depends on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk. For trade and other receivables, the Group applies the simplified approach required by AASB 9, which requires expected lifetime losses to be recognised from initial recognition of the receivables. The Group has established a provision matrix that is based on the entity's historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward-looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment. The adoption of the ECL requirements of AASB 9 did not result in a material increase in impairment allowances of the Company's trade and other receivables.

Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations have recently been issued or amended but are not yet effective and have not been adopted by the Company for the reporting period ended 30 June 2019. The Company have not early adopted any of these new or amended standards or interpretations. The Company have not finalised the assessment of the impact of these new or amended standards (to the extent relevant to the Company) and interpretations.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Title	Nature of Change	Impact	Effective Date	Application date
AASB 15 <i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i>	<p>The AASB has issued a new standard for the recognition of revenue.</p> <p>This will replace AASB 118 which covers revenue arising from the sale of goods and the rendering of services and AASB 111 which covers construction contracts.</p> <p>The New standard is based on the principle that revenue is recognised when control of a good or service transfers to a customer.</p> <p>The standard permits either a full retrospective or a modified retrospective approach for the adoption.</p>	<p>Management has not concluded its detailed assessment on the impact of adopting AASB 15 as a not-for-profit organisation.</p> <p>Management has also elected to not early adopt this standard.</p>	1 January 2019	1 July 2019
AASB 16 <i>Leases</i>	<p>AASB 16 - replaces AASB 117 Leases and some lease-related interpretations- requires all leases to be accounted for 'on-balance sheet' by lessees, other than short-term and low value asset leases- provides new guidance on the application of the definition of lease and on sale and lease back accounting- largely retains the existing lessor accounting requirements in AASB 117- requires new and different disclosures about leases.</p>	<p>The Company only has three operating lease arrangements in relation to the office rentals - which is on a short term basis (12 months). Therefore management does not expect AASB 16 to have a material impact on the Company's financial report.</p>	01 January 2019	01 July 2019

Notes to the Financial Statements

Title	Nature of Change	Impact	Effective Date	Application date
AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities	<p>The AASB has issued a new standard for the recognition of revenue.</p> <p>This will replace AASB 118 which covers revenue arising from the sale of goods and the rendering of services and AASB 111 which covers construction contracts.</p> <p>The New standard is based on the principle that revenue is recognised when control of a good or service transfers to a customer.</p> <p>The standard permits either a full retrospective or a modified retrospective approach for the adoption.</p>	<p>Management has not concluded its detailed assessment on the impact of adopting AASB 1058 as a not-for-profit organisation.</p> <p>Management has also elected to not early adopt this standard.</p>	1 January 2019	1 July 2019

c. Accounting Policies

i. Revenue

Revenue comprises revenue from government grants, fundraising activities and client contributions.

Revenue is measured by reference to the fair value of consideration received or receivable by the Company for goods supplied and services provided, excluding sales taxes, rebates, and trade discounts.

Revenue is recognised when the amount of revenue can be measured reliably, collection is probable, the costs incurred or to be incurred can be measured reliably, and when the criteria for each of the Company's different activities have been met. Details of the activity-specific recognition criteria are described below.

ii. Government grants

A number of the Company's programs are supported by grants received from the federal, state and local governments.

If conditions are attached to a grant which must be satisfied before the Company is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue is deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

Where a grant is received on the condition that specified services are delivered, to the grantor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction. Revenue is recognised as services are performed and at period-end until the service is delivered.

Revenue from a non-reciprocal grant that is not subject to conditions is recognised when the Company obtains control of the funds, economic benefits are probable and the amount can be measured reliably. Where a grant may be required to be repaid if certain conditions are not satisfied, a liability is recognised at period end to the extent that conditions remain unsatisfied.

Where the Company receives a non-reciprocal contribution of an asset from a government or other party for no or nominal consideration, the asset is recognised at fair value and a corresponding amount of revenue is recognised.

Notes to the Financial Statements

iii. Property, Plant and Equipment

Buildings, plant and other equipment (comprising fittings and furniture) are initially recognised at acquisition cost or manufacturing cost, including any costs directly attributable to bringing the assets to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by the Company's management.

Buildings, plant and other equipment are subsequently measured using the cost model, cost less subsequent depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis to write down the cost less estimated residual value of buildings, plant and other equipment. The following useful lives are applied:

- Furniture and equipment up to seven years
- Computer equipment up to three years

Material residual value estimates and estimates of useful life are updated as required, but at least annually.

Gains or losses arising on the disposal of property, plant and equipment are determined as the difference between the disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the assets and are recognised in profit or loss within other income or other expenses.

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Company assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss, unless the asset is carried at a revalued amount in accordance with another Standard (e.g. in accordance with the revaluation model in AASB 116: *Property, Plant and Equipment*). Any impairment loss of a revalued asset is treated as a revaluation decrease in accordance with that other Standard.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

iv. Employee Benefits

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the company's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The company's obligations for short-term employee benefits such as wages, salaries and sick leave are recognised as a part of current trade and other payables in the statement of financial position.

Retirement benefit obligations

Defined contribution superannuation benefits - all employees of the company receive defined contribution superannuation entitlements, for which the company pays the fixed superannuation guarantee contribution (currently 9.5% of the employee's average ordinary salary) to the employee's superannuation fund of choice. All contributions in respect of employees' defined contribution entitlements are recognised as an expense when they become payable. The company's obligation with respect to employees' defined contribution entitlements is limited to its obligation for any unpaid superannuation guarantee contributions at the end of the reporting period. All obligations for unpaid superannuation guarantee contributions are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled and are presented as current liabilities in the company's statement of financial position.

v. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

Notes to the Financial Statements

vi. Good and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

vii. Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div. 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

viii. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate on the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

ix. Trade and Other Receivables

Trade receivables and other receivables, are recognised at the nominal transaction value without taking into account the time value of money. If required a provision for doubtful debt has been created. Trade and other receivables represent the assets for goods and services supplied by the company during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current asset with the amount normally received within 30 days of recognition of the asset.

x. Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amount normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

xi. Significant management judgement in applying accounting policies

When preparing the financial statements, management undertakes a number of judgements, estimates and assumptions about the recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses.

Estimation uncertainty

Information about estimates and assumptions that have the most significant effect on recognition and measurement of assets, liabilities, income and expenses is provided below. Actual results may be substantially different.

Impairment

In assessing impairment, management estimates the recoverable amount of each asset or cash-generating unit based on expected future cash flows and uses an interest rate to discount them. Estimation uncertainty relates to assumptions about future operating results and the determination of a suitable discount rate.

Useful lives of depreciable assets

Management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date, based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to technical obsolescence that may change the utility of certain software and IT equipment.

Notes to the Financial Statements

Grant Revenue

Grant revenue is recognised on an estimation's basis. xii. Economic Dependence

MTP-IIGC LTD is dependent on the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report, the Board of Directors has no reason to believe the Department will not continue to support MTP-IIGC LTD.

xiii. Fair Value of Assets and Liabilities

The company measures some of its assets and liabilities at fair value on either a recurring or non-recurring basis, depending on the requirements of the applicable Accounting Standard.

"Fair value" is the price the company would receive to sell an asset or would have to pay to transfer a liability in an orderly (ie unforced) transaction between independent, knowledgeable and willing market participants at the measurement date.

As fair value is a market-based measure, the closest equivalent observable market pricing information is used to determine fair value. Adjustments to market values may be made having regard to the characteristics of the specific asset or liability. The fair values of assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market are determined using one or more valuation techniques. These valuation techniques maximise, to the extent possible, the use of observable market data.

To the extent possible, market information is extracted from the principal market for the asset or liability (i.e. the market with the greatest volume and level of activity for the asset or liability). In the absence of such a market, market information is extracted from the most advantageous market available to the entity at the end of the reporting period (i.e. the market that maximises the receipts from the sale of the asset or minimises the payments made to transfer the liability, after taking into account transaction costs and transport costs).

For non-financial assets, the fair value measurement also takes into account a market participant's ability to use the asset in its highest and best use or to sell it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The fair value of liabilities and the entity's own equity instruments (if any) may be valued, where there is no observable market price in relation to the transfer of such financial instrument, by reference to observable market information where such instruments are held as assets. Where this information is not available, other valuation techniques are adopted and, where significant, are detailed in the respective note to the financial statements.

xiv. Reporting period

The current period of the financial statements is from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

2. Grants

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Grants from DIIS	9,035,718	5,116,686
Grants from DOH	4,341,628	1,854,700
Grants from WA Government	131,455	-
	13,508,801	6,971,386

3. Cash & Cash Equivalents

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	31,844,959	21,079,766
	31,844,959	21,079,766

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Trade and other receivables

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Prepayments	19,050	14,159
Trade Receivables	444	143,000
Income Accrued	4,043	2,173
Other Receivables	22,083	22,083
	45,620	181,415

5. Property, Plant and Equipment

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
At Cost	98,241	64,623
Accumulated depreciation	(69,603)	(40,803)
	28,639	23,820

Movements in carrying amounts:

Movement in carrying amounts for property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current and prior financial periods are presented as follows:

	Furniture and Office Equipment	Low-Value Pool	Total
	\$	\$	\$
2018			
Balance at the beginning of the period	38,207	300	38,507
Additions at cost	5,534	1,036	6,570
Depreciation expense	(20,221)	(1,036)	(21,257)
Balance at the end of the period	23,520	300	23,820
2019			
Balance at the beginning of the period	23,520	300	23,820
Additions at cost	28,058	2,397	30,455
Depreciation expense	(23,239)	(2,397)	(25,636)
Balance at the end of the period	28,339	300	28,639

Notes to the Financial Statements

6. Trade and other payables

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Trade Creditors	1,018,306	496,803
Other Payables	1,204,916	-
Accrued Expenses	216,097	141,828
	2,439,319	638,631

7. Deferred Income

Deferred income represents the life to date surplus of grants received as compared to expenditure (on both operating and project activities) incurred for respective funding:

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
Deferred income related to funding received from:		
• Department of Industry, Innovation and Science	10,072,080	12,061,242
• Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (WA)	468,545	300,000
• Department of Health (BioMedTech Horizon)	3,702,376	8,145,300
• Department of Health (BioMedTech Horizon 2)	4,966,668	-
• Department of Health (Biomedical Translation Bridge Program)	10,098,072	-
	29,307,741	20,506,542

8. Provisions

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
Provision for Annual Leave	62,567	72,596
Provision for Long Service Leave	7,754	6,289
	70,321	78,885
<i>Movement of Provisions</i>		
Opening Balance	78,885	31,992
Additional provisions for the period	(8,564)	46,893
	70,321	78,885

9. Income Tax

Please note that MTP-IGC Ltd is exempt from Income Tax as it is a registered charity under Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission.

Notes to the Financial Statements

10. Events after reporting date

The directors are not aware of any significant events since the end of the reporting period.

11. Key management personnel compensation

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that entity is considered key management personnel ("KMP").

The total remuneration paid to KMP of the organisation during the period are as follows:

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
	\$	\$
KMP compensation for the year	947,193	578,406
	947,193	578,406

12. Other related party transactions

There have been related party transactions during the period ending 30 June 2019 totaling \$20,297 exclusive GST for Graphic Design work for Conference Brochures, Business Cards and Annual Highlights document.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or jointly controlled by those key management personnel individually or collectively with their close family members.

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other persons unless otherwise stated

13. Contingent Liabilities

Under the terms of the KMP employment contracts some employees are entitled to redundancy payments equaling up to 6 months' salary. This payment is contingent upon the Company receiving notification from the Commonwealth that it's Funding Agreement with them has been terminated.

At the date of this report, the Company has not received any termination notification from the Commonwealth. The approximate value of contingent liability is \$757,358.

Directors Declaration

MTP-IIGCLTD

For the year ended 30 June 2019

In the opinion of the Directors of MTP-IIGCLTD:

1. The financial statements and notes of MTP-IIGCLTD are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:
 - a. Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - b. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that MTP-IIGCLTD will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

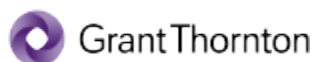


Director: Dr Daniel Grant



Director: Ms Sue MacLeman

Sign date: 21 August 2019



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of MTP-IIGC LTD

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of MTP-IIGC LTD (the "Registered Entity"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the Directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of MTP-IIGC LTD has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Registered Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

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Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Registered Entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2019, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the financial report

The Directors of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Registered Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the Registered Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Registered Entity's internal control.



- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Registered Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

A stylized, handwritten signature of Grant Thornton in a light blue color.

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

A handwritten signature of M A Cunningham in a light blue color.

M A Cunningham
Partner – Audit & Assurance

Melbourne, 21 August 2019





A scientist in a white lab coat and safety goggles is shown in profile, looking down at a test tube held in their right hand. The background is a blurred laboratory setting with various pieces of equipment. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent teal color.

MTPConnect Industry Growth Centres **Projects**

The following pages provide an overview of MTPConnect's Growth Centre projects and their impact on the sector. More information can be found at mtpconnect.org.au.

MTPConnect Industry Growth Centre Projects

The following table provides an overview of MTPConnect’s GC projects. More information can be found at mtpconnect.org.au.

Growth Centre Objective addressed by Project			
	Improving Coordination and Collaboration		Management and workforce skills
	International markets and global value chains		Regulation reform

FINISHED PROJECTS

Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) program
ATSE

Project description: Aiming to narrow the cultural gap that exists in Australia between business and academia through the Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) program, that will develop a national mentoring program linking PhD students with qualified industry mentors.

Outcomes: 400 industry knowledgeable PhD students have been trained. Over 80% of mentees maintain contact with their industry mentor after their one year program has ended.



The Actuator
The Actuator Operations Ltd

Project description: To leverage Australia’s existing industry and research capabilities in the acceleration of new high-value, medical device technology development opportunities through a number of focused, 15-month actuator programs.

Outcomes: 24 new companies have been supported, creating over 55 new jobs with over \$8.7M of investment.



BioFab3D@ACMD
St Vincent’s Hospital (Melbourne) Limited

Project description: Support for BioFab3D@ACMD, a robotics and biomedical engineering centre, embedded within a hospital. Researchers, clinicians, engineers and industry partners work alongside each other with a vision to build biological structures such as organs, bones, brain, muscle, nerves and glands.

Outcomes: Since the opening of the BioFab centre last year, 94 individual have worked within the centre. The Centre is also being used by two MedTech start-ups.



Comprehensive Global Investment program
AusBiotech Ltd

Project description: Development of a comprehensive global investment education program for the Australian life science sector - companies, investors and researchers.

Outcomes: This project has held 13 events with over 1300 attendees and has supported one inbound and three outbound trade missions.



Australian Centre for Regenerative Medicine
Monash University

Project description: CCRM Australia, an Australian hub of Canada’s Commercialization Centre for Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) will support the development of foundational technologies to accelerate the commercialization of regenerative medicine products and therapies.

Outcomes: 10 regenerative medicine product companies that are collaborating internationally to advance their product commercialisation. 5 collaboration events with over 500 attendees as well as the support of three inbound and three outbound trade missions.



Hit ID platform
Cancer Therapeutics CRC Pty Ltd (CTx)

Project description: Build on a national framework to provide Australian drug discovery organisations access to a comprehensive Hit ID platform that includes: a fit for purpose drug discovery library (up to 300,000 compounds); an ultra-high throughput screening facility; fragment based drug design capability; and a state of the art software platform for in silico drug discovery.

Outcomes: New storage infrastructure and 310,000 compound bank to allow fast screening of compounds to determine new target drug formulations. 6 screenings have already been performed since the project completion.



National Medical Device Partnering Program (NMDPP) Flinders University of South Australia

Project description: Initial scoping of the roll out of a National Medical Device Partnering Program (NMDPP) to bring together research, clinical and industry partners in a streamlined process for collaboration and product development.

Outcomes: A National program is in place across all States with appropriate guidelines and governance determined.

A lead for each State has been identified and is driving the program.



Vaccine research in Australia: Landscaping capabilities and relevant service

Vaxine Pty Ltd

Project description: Project to assist in landscaping Australia's vaccine research capabilities and relevant services for the use by the whole MTP sector in a searchable database. Australia's first national Vaccine conference.

Outcomes: A better connected Australian vaccine community, engaging through events and in person. Eight events / seminar have been held with over 100 attendees.

5 pre-clinical and one clinical trial has started as a result of these collaborations.



The Bridge Program

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Project description: A consortium of 15 companies, universities and industry associations that aims to transfer practical skills on pharmaceutical commercialisation through online and residential training in drug discovery and development. Direct exposure to industry practitioners in the scientific, legal, financial, clinical, regulatory and reimbursement disciplines that contribute to the commercialising of medicines.

Outcomes: 299 early careers researchers have been trained in pharmaceutical commercialisation. A 2019 survey revealed 30 products developed and 16 patent applications since participants training ended. This project is now funded through the BTB fund.



Accelerating Australia

Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation Limited (CERI)

Project description: A national consortium for translational medical technology and pharmaceuticals research and training. Small grant offered for scoping / development project on governance and national collaboration work.

Outcomes: Governance developed to allow network of translational activities in the future as well as pilot training programs. 194 people took part in training courses. The trainees invented 19 new medical technology opportunities and have since won commercial grants, seed funding, placements in accelerator programs, established companies and filed patent applications.



Clinical Trial Assist – facilitating clinical trial recruitment in general practice

VentureWise Pty Limited

Project description: To identify, develop and evaluate a model to support clinical trials in Australia by providing access to the leading clinical data set in Australia to: (1) guide clinical trial protocol development; (2) assess feasibility of protocols and recruitment; (3) facilitate direct patient recruitment; and (4) engage the general practice sector.

Outcomes: 52 GP's attended education sessions and an additional 38 GP practices were engaged with assisted recruitment.

Three clinical trials were assisted with recruitment and 54 individuals recruited in total during the project.



National MTP+D Live Showcase: Searchable, trackable, public pipelines for medtech, pharmaceutical and digital health innovations

Health-Innovate Pty Ltd

Project description: To catalogue and track publicly exposed MTPD innovations under development in Australia. By the end of the year-long collaborative campaign the catalogue will be publicly and globally accessible and kept up-to-date using a humanized machine learning system.

Outcomes: A learning platform following at least 1200 Australian products has been developed and has been showcased at the World Hospital Congress. The progress of the products is automatically kept up to date and can be used to demonstrate trends and funding focus opportunities.





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FINISHED PROJECTS (continued)

The Bioprint Facility for Translational Science and Medicine in the MTP Sector

University of Wollongong

Project description: Create a facility to expedite the development of commercial opportunities in 3D bio-printing. It will provide the technical expertise and facilities to enable the development of commercial opportunities identified with/by the clinical partners, the partner SMEs and other industries for the production of relevant biomaterials, formulations of bioinks or customized bioprinting systems.

Outcomes: A new facility (TRICEP - Translational Research Initiative of Cellular Engineering and Printing) has been established at Wollongong. Four companies have progressed their product development within this facility so far, two of which have had \$2.3M of investment. Three additional companies are in discussions with TRICEP.



Installation of robotic sterile finished product clinical trial manufacturing capability

Pharmaceutical Packaging Professionals Pty Ltd

Project description: PPP currently supports manufacture of clinical trial products for Australian biotech companies and medical research institutes. Whilst PPP can manufacture non-sterile products for Phase I, II and III, they are limited to Phase I for sterile products. This project proposes adding a fully robotic, sterile vial-filling line to manufacture Phase II and III products.

Outcomes: This project was terminated by MTPConnect.



ONGOING PROJECTS

Upgrade CSIRO Protein Production Platform

CSIRO

Project description: Aiming to upgrade the CSIRO (Clayton) protein production platform to human GMP capability for pilot-scale (<=200L) for a variety of expression systems (mammalian/yeast/ bacterial) as well as scale-up of cells. Will include a training program for post graduate study.

Outcomes: This project will deliver and commission equipment for a facility to produce small volumes of cells for Phase II and Phase III human clinical trials. 20 post graduates will be trained in production system.



ANDHealth

ANDHealth

Project description: Creating an integrated ecosystem for the development & commercialisation of evidence-based digital health products.

Outcomes: Supported 10 evidence-based digital health product companies, which has created 88 new jobs, an investment of \$15.8M, and treated over 24,000 patients. Additional funding for 5-day training course was granted in Dec 2018.



Pilot Implementation of the Australasian Tele-Trial Model Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA)

Project description: COSA has developed a national guide for implementation of the Australasian Tele-Trial Model in consultation with clinical trial sponsors, clinicians, health administrators and regulatory bodies. This project will implement a feasible and effective tele-health strategy to increase access to clinical trials closer to home, while at the same time ensuring the proper conduct of cancer clinical trials.

Outcomes: Five tele-trial model cancer trials cluster are in place with patients recruited to four clusters so far.



Biofabrication Institute

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Project description: Support for a biofabrication research centre located on a hospital campus utilising 3D digital scanning, modelling and advanced manufacturing technologies. Initially scanning and modelling ears for children with Microtia.

Outcomes: Specifications for a BioFabrication centre, with industry partners engaged. At least 8 children recruited to a pilot project investigating biofabrication of ears.



Clinical Trial : Impact and Quality (CT:IQ)

Bellberry Ltd

Project description: Clinical Trial Improvement Initiative - based on the CTTI (US) model with a vision for a whole of sector approach to improve the quality, efficiency and impact of clinical trials.

Outcomes: Five sector wide, industry led projects are underway. These project engage and benefit the entire clinical trials sector.



Australia-China Life Sciences Partnership Program AusBiotech Ltd

Project description: The Australia-China Life Sciences Partnership Program aims to increase awareness and opportunities for communication, collaboration and commercialisation between the life sciences sector in Australia and China. This will utilise the in-market knowledge and expertise of the program's consortium partners to develop an interactive platform and training programs as well as leveraging the MTPConnect-funded Global Investment Program to deliver high quality, collaborative research and industry projects as well as valuable data analytics on commercial engagement between the two countries.

Outcomes: A free-to-use database with facilitated connections benefitting at least 20 businesses with knowledge and connections.



Microscopy Australia - Technical Voucher Fund

University of Sydney

Project description: The scheme will fund vouchers to support medtech R&D by providing easy and discounted access to the range of Microscopy Australia services. It is designed to reduce barriers and provide industry with:

- access to analytical tools and experts with problem solving capabilities
- funds tailored to SME and large companies' research needs
- better links between universities and industry – more engagement opportunities

Outcomes: Six vouchers have been issued to SME's. This has facilitated both research investigations and international clinical trials work.



Ab-initio pharma | Formulation and GMP product manufacturing services for clinical trials in Australia

The University of Sydney

Project description: To provide bespoke pharmaceutical products that meet regulatory and quality control standards. To establish a unique manufacturing and training facility that provides cost effective manufacturing solutions for Small Medium Enterprises, academics, clinicians and larger pharma for early phase clinical trials in Australia.

Outcomes: Installation of a production facility to produce small volumes of solid fill product for Phase II and Phase III Human clinical trials. 20 post graduates trained in production system.



ONGOING PROJECTS (continued)

ClinTrial Refer - Improve recruitment to all clinical trials in Australia

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.

Project description: ClinTrial Refer is a mobile smartphone and web-based platform connecting doctors and patients to recruiting clinical trials across research networks. Successful as a template, there are currently 19 derivative pilot apps. ClinTrial Refer Australia will develop a new IT platform to integrate the derivative apps, create one combined database, create new search functions, enable electronic referrals, link to ANZCTR and build a national solution to trials recruitment.

Outcomes: A single 'ClinTrial Refer' application has been launched on Apple and Android platforms and has been loaded with active trials. Initial feedback is very positive.



Accelerating Australia – Stage 2

Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation (CERI)

Project description: Accelerating Australia is a national consortium of biomedical research institutions, universities, healthcare providers and companies. It facilitates translation of biomedical research through experiential entrepreneurial courses, brokerage and early stage commercialisation support services. Collaborating across sectors, organisations and disciplines to identify and reduce hurdles in our biomedical translation ecosystem to the benefit of all.

Outcomes: Commercialisation training and support for at least 462 individuals (students and clinicians from 20 partner universities and companies) - resulting in 66 new technologies, 11 new jobs and \$3.2M of investment into the companies. Improved collaboration between universities and companies within each State Node.



The Bridge Tech Program

Queensland University of Technology

Project description: To enable Australia to more effectively capitalise on its world class medical technology—medical device research sector by providing mid-career and senior entrepreneurs and scientists with relevant, specific commercialisation training. The program will be delivered by companies, universities and industry operating in the sector through online mediums, residential training and networking events.

Outcomes: 114 early careers researchers trained in medical device commercialisation. As of June 2019 this has resulted in eleven new technologies being progressed with eight of these in pre-clinical or clinical trial. Networks have developed between participants and industry. This project has been moved to the BTB fund.



Certara-Monash University Industry Fellowship Program

Certara Australia Pty. Ltd.,

Project description: The Certara-Monash Fellowship Program in drug development and pharmaceutical science will increase sector-wide capabilities through consistent, scalable, expert-led, industry focused training of Post-Doctoral Fellows. The national program will identify and develop the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists who will help shape the future of the biotech and pharmaceutical industry. The program will be located at Monash University Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and will involve a combination of academic coursework, hands-on industry training, and research.

Outcomes: The initial three post doctoral fellows have been appointed and started their training. Applications are open for the additional 2 fellows.



CRITERIA - Building clinical trial capability and capacity.

ARCS Australia Ltd

Project description: The MTP Sector is constrained in growth through lack of appropriately skilled and experienced workforce participants, particularly for conducting Clinical Trials. This project aims to connect MTP companies with appropriately trained graduates to equip them with job ready skills to meet this gap.

Outcomes: ARCS have trained 52 graduates in all aspects of pharmaceutical medicine and clinical research. At the end of the initial training program, over 75% of graduates gained full-time employment within the Australian clinical research industry. ARCS will mentor all graduates until the end of the project.



Enabling Precision Cancer Clinical Trials: A molecular profiling platform for the Australian clinical trials industry and SME's.

The Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Project description: This project will deliver a molecular profiling platform to increase capacity in Australia's clinical trial sector, and increase the attractiveness of Australia to the international pharmaceutical industry. The platform includes a clinically-accredited molecular test for cancer trials, a genomics data platform to support clinical trials, and patient-matching capabilities to facilitate recruitment.

Outcomes: To date the project has trained over 200 individuals and identified 400 individuals who have been referred via patient matching for clinical trials and focussed therapies. This project will have at least 5 SME companies engaged with the platform by its conclusion.



Accelerating precision therapies through digital infrastructure for adaptive trials and trial-ready cohort studies

Queensland University of Technology

Project description: To develop digital infrastructure to support adaptive clinical trials and 'trial-ready' natural history cohort studies. The open-source solution will enable seamless capture and linkage of clinician-entered and patient-reported data with health system administrative data, improving efficiencies for assessing and connecting eligible patients to trials, supporting the efficient systematic capture of data for trials, and for enabling real-time Bayesian analysis for novel trial designs. It is specifically intended to facilitate capture of clinical evidence to inform the licensure and funding of new therapeutic products.

Outcomes: The open source adaptive clinical trial platform is in development with 25 individuals trained in its use. A further 300 people have been to information seminars. The databases are established for three initial rare disease populations, and are being populated.



Training Programs for the Biologics and Biomedical-based Industry Sector.

Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, University of Queensland

Project description: The project seeks to design and create training programs for industry associated with the R&D and advanced manufacturing of biologic medicines and more broadly for industry associated with biomedical sciences. The training program fills a gap in the required knowledge and skills base necessary for advancement of Australian industry.

Outcomes: At least 227 individuals have received training so far. This is a mixture of in-person training and access to an e-learning platform.



Operationalize the Centre for Commercialisation for Regenerative Medicine Australia (CCRM Australia)

Monash University

Project description: This project will see CCRM Australia accelerating the commercialization of Australian regenerative medicine technologies, therapies and related products. This is achieved by fostering increased collaboration between industry, clinicians and academia, both locally and globally; and nurturing local regenerative medicine companies for the international market.

Outcomes: CCRM Australia has completed a pilot mentoring program, launched a regenerative medicine database and will coordinate a national conference in 2020. Partner companies are collaborating to advance their product commercialisation and apply for grants together.



A cloud-based AI digital health platform (Hospital 4.0) applied to nationwide cardiovascular clinical decision support.

Integrated Cardiovascular Clinical Network (iCCnet) CHSA,

Project description: The consortium will implement a Cloud Artificial Intelligence digital health platform by invoking AI risk stratification (triage) and delivering real time guidance to clinical decision makers, via notifications and escalations. The initial clinical focus will be on chronic disease services in rural/remote SA, however, the infrastructure will be commercially scalable to other diseases, across Australia and beyond.

Outcomes: Initial health data has been uploaded and presented on a platform to allow the health team experts to determine clinical guidance principals. Machine learning will then be based on these guidance principals.



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ONGOING PROJECTS (continued)

Establishment of a MTP competency based, manufacturing skills development facility/training hub and early stage clinical trial manufacturing facility.

Translational Research Institute

Project description: This project will establish a medtech/ pharma clinical manufacturing and training hub at the Translational Research Institute (TRI) in Brisbane to enable the translation of concepts into products for clinical studies.

Outcomes: Improvements in the cleanroom facilities are progressing with delivery of the final equipment due in December. Interest from the MedTech sector is strong with over 130 individuals attending four information sessions.



ASIALINK

Asialink Business

Project description: To develop two Asia Industry guides: 'digital health in Indonesia' and 'frugal innovation ecosystem in India' as well as identification of Asia capable leaders with Australia's ASX listed MTP companies.

Outcomes: All three reports are being developed and will be launched between December and February. Information and Asia-linked networking events are planned.



National Expansion of the MDPP Stage 2 Flinders University of South Australia

Project description: To expand the Medical Device Partnering Program nationally. It builds on the review and scoping work undertaken in 2017 and 2018, funded by MTPConnect, and seeks to establish the foundations for national operations.

Outcomes: A MDPP has been established in Victoria and supported by the Victorian State government. Additional funding for the ongoing program has been provided in South Australia by the SA State government. Discussions are progressing with Tasmania, Queensland, NSW and WA. National guidelines and processes have been established.



IMNIS Stage 2

ATSE

Project description: To continue with the PhD mentoring activities, develop an alumni program, a rural pilot and remote mentoring.

Outcomes: IMNIS programs have connected over 240 students from 32 organisations in the MTP sector to an industry mentor. The Alumni program has had its first event. The rural pilot is progressing with Queensland as the pilot location.



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