MTP Connect

MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre

Annual Report FY2021

31 October 2021

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Industry Growth Centres


2021

Contents

Foreword from the Chair and the Managing Director and CEO

This financial year, much like the last, has been dominated by the fight against COVID-19: the emergence of the Delta and Omicron strains of the virus, protracted lockdowns and the race to vaccinate the nation. Throughout, MTPConnect has remained focused on supporting the science, research, innovation and entrepreneurship that underpins Australia's vibrant medical products sector.

Our sector has never been more important. Advancing vaccine design and manufacture, diagnostics and imaging, bioprocessing technologies, ventilation technology, telemedicine, infection control and protection and immune system directed therapies, we are bringing life-saving medical products from bench to bedside.

And MTPConnect has continued to deploy funding into the sector to back that work.

Across MTPConnect's six strategic funding programs, we have injected $95 million into the sector, supporting 145 projects. We're also catalysing industry support, with our investments yielding $566 million in additional industry contributions and flow-on external investment.

It's this critical mass of capital and productive collaboration between industry and research that will position Australia to commercialise the medical products coming out of the research in our universities and medical research institutes.

We have secured two additional funding programs from the Medical Research Future Fund during the year – the $47 million Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) initiative, which is focused on diabetes and cardiovascular disease and the $19.75 million Clinical Translation and Commercialisation – Medtech (CTCM) initiative, which is supporting the translation of innovative medical devices. With more funding to deploy in the coming years, MTPConnect is positioned to ramp up its support for the sector.

Of course, it's not just about funding. Our sector's future depends on the skills of its workforce. Through our Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (REDI) initiative, we are investing in training and skills programs to address key skills gaps in medical product development and commercialisation, with 13 partners and selected providers delivering more than 2,215 new training, mentoring and industry opportunities across Australia.

MTPConnect has taken substantial steps to diversify the organisation's revenue, leveraging the original Growth centre (GC) investment to amplify impact and find new ways to support health and medical research projects, translation, commercialisation and sector growth. In recognition of our impact, it's pleasing that the Government has approved an additional year of operation for MTPConnect, and other Growth Centres, through until 30 June 2023 and we continue to explore options for future growth so we can maintain our central role in helping expand Australia's medical products sector.

With the launch this year of the Modern Manufacturing Strategy (MMS) and its focus on medical products, the medical technologies, biotechnologies and pharmaceuticals (MTP) sector which works across all phases of manufacturing, from pre-clinical and clinical development and production and manufacturing through to logistics, distribution and product marketing, is uniquely positioned to be a global leader in advanced medical products manufacturing.

And, as we have through the challenges of COVID-19, MTPConnect will be there to help the sector unlock its full potential.

Sue MacLeman
Chair

Dr Dan Grant
Managing Director and CEO

Scope of Report

This Annual Report from MTP-IIGC Ltd, trading as MTPConnect, is provided to the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (DISER) as a contracted deliverable, as detailed in the Funding Agreement signed by MTPConnect and DISER on 18 December 2015 and in the three Variations to the Funding Agreement signed on 3 May 2016, 15 January 2019 and 22 April 2021.

The report relates to the 2021 financial year: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

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

Overview

MTPConnect, the Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals (MTP) Industry Growth Centre (IGC), was established in 2015 as an independent, not-for-profit (NFP) organisation that champions a sector-led approach to accelerating the growth of Australia's MTP sector. As an independent, not-for-profit body, MTPConnect is attuned to the needs of all participants in the sector, allowing it to act 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. Ms MacLeman is currently the Chair of MTPConnect (MTP-IIGC Ltd), Chair of Oventus Medical Ltd (ASX:OVN), Non-Executive Director of Anatara Lifesciences Ltd (ASX:ANR), Chair of TALi Digital Ltd (ASX:TD1), and Non-Executive Director of Palla Pharma Ltd (ASX:PAL), Planet Innovation and Omico. She is also appointed to several academic and government advisory committees, including the CSIRO Health and Biosecurity Advisory Group, the Prime Minister's Digital Experts Advisory Committee, DMTC's Medical Countermeasures Stakeholder Group and various COVID-19 taskforces. Her broad commercial experience is underpinned by graduate qualifications in pharmacy and postgraduate qualifications in corporate governance, commercial law, business administration and marketing. Ms MacLeman is a Fellow and Chair of the Australian Academy of Technology & Engineering (ATSE) Health Forum, Chair Policy Forum ATSE, Fellow ACPP and Fellow/Graduate of AICD. In 2019, she was awarded the prestigious AusBiotech and Johnson & Johnson Innovation Industry Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the MTP sector.

Dr Nicholas Cerneaz – Director

Dr Nicholas Cerneaz has been building companies to commercialise academic research for more than two decades. After gaining a DPhil 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.

Alex Fowkes – Director

Alex Fowkes was the Chief Strategy Officer for WuXi NextCODE, based in Singapore. As a life science executive, he is an experienced leader and thought partner for life science strategy, commercial operations and business development. He has extensive experience in leading strategy development and operational improvement projects within the pharmaceutical, contract research and bioinformatics industries, with a core expertise in the strategy, execution and management of strategic partnerships. His specialities are life science strategy and operations, business development and strategic transactions.

Julie Phillips – Director

Julie Phillips has a strong background in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry, having worked as 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. From 2014 to 2020, Ms Phillips was Chair of AusBiotech Ltd, the peak biotechnology industry association in Australia. She is CEO and Director of BioDiem Ltd and its subsidiary, Opal Biosciences Ltd. She is also a member of the Council of The University of Newcastle, chairs Industry Innovation and Science Australia's Research and Development Incentives Committee, and sits on various government committees.

Dr Douglas Robertson – Director

Dr Douglas 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 $3 billion in research funding, served on the boards of more than 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 and PraxisUnico), a major UK and international technology transfer and training association, from 2003 to 2013 and Chair in 2012 and 2013. Dr Robertson serves on the boards of four National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) facilities.

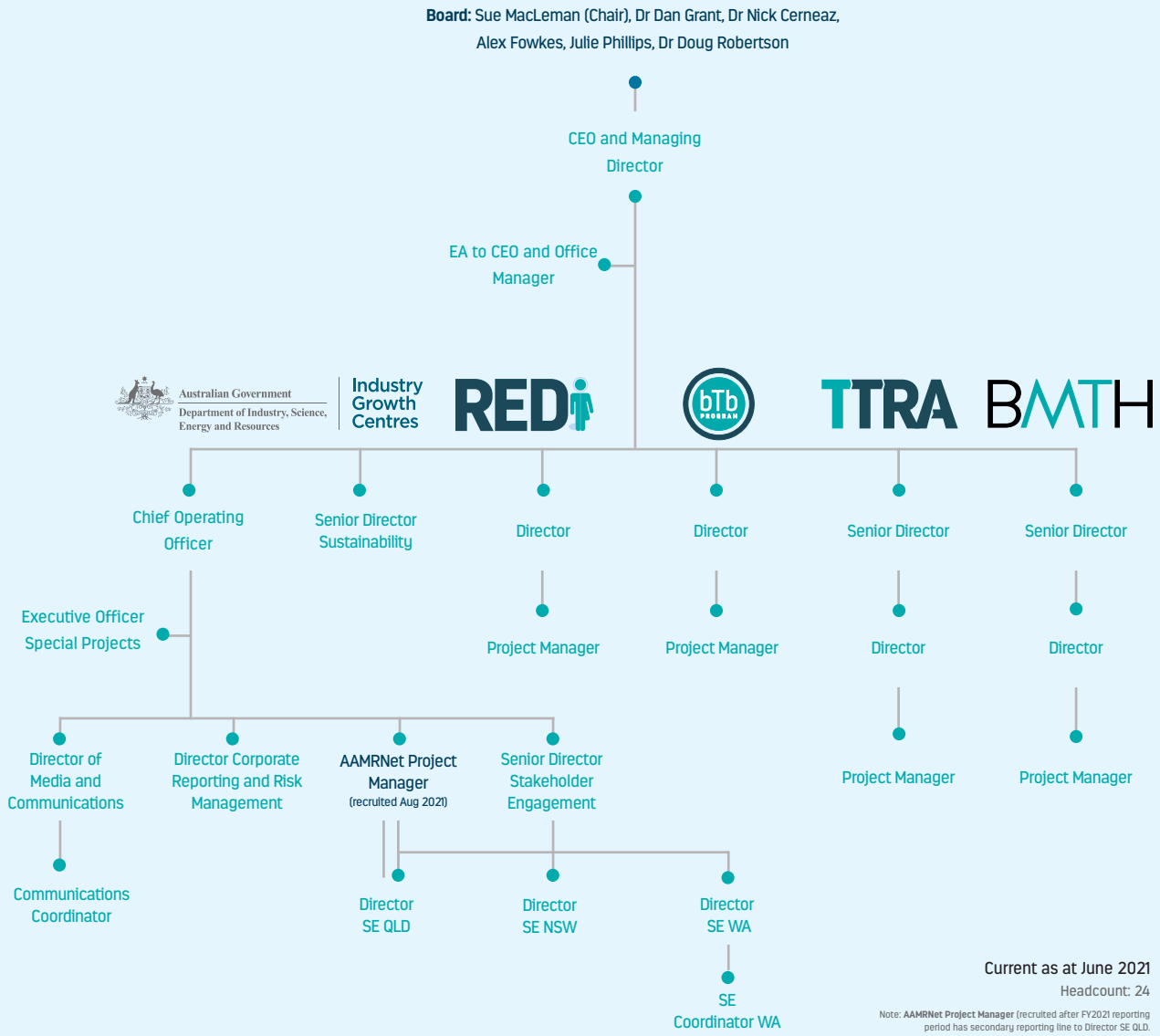
Dr Dan Grant – Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer

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 in 2018, 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 sits on the Expert Advisory Panel for the Stem Cell Therapies Mission and numerous other advisory boards including for the Medical Device Research Institute at Flinders University. He has a PhD in Cardiovascular Physiology and an MBA.

Stuart Dignam – Chief Operating Officer

Stuart Dignam is an accomplished corporate affairs professional with experience across operations, communications, issues management and policy in the public and private sectors. He has held several senior positions, including General Manager, Policy and Corporate Affairs at CPA Australia, Queensland Deputy Trade and Investment Commissioner for the Americas and Executive Director, Office of the Director-General of Premier and Cabinet in Queensland. He has worked as a broadcaster for ABC Radio and as a government media and policy advisor.

MTPConnect Organisational Structure



Our People

Zooming in on the MTPConnect 'Teams'

Pictured: Zooming in on the MTPConnect 'Teams'. Top L–R: Dr Dan Grant, Sue MacLeman, Dr Nick Cerneaz, Alex Fowkes, Julie Phillips, Dr Douglas Robertson, Stuart Dignam.
Second row L-R: Dr Rebecca Tunstall, Andrew Bowskill, Dr Gerard Gibbs, Lauren Kelly, Dr David Fox, Elizabeth Stares, Caroline Duell.
Third row L-R: Danielle Shand, Dr Vishal Srivastava, Dr Duncan Macinnis, Dr Amelia Vom, Dr Michelle Low, Dr Tracey Wilkinson, Jarrod Belcher
Bottom row L-R: Dr Erin McAllum, Libby Pearce, Jenny Devlin, Miriam Wallace (joined in June 2021), Rebekah Craggs, Dr Mana Liao, Dr Meghana Kulkarni.

To support delivery of an expanded suite of programs, FY2021 saw several key appointments. Jarrod Belcher joined the MTPConnect team as Director of the REDI initiative and Dr Tracey Wilkinson came on board as Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Western Australia.

Dr Mana Liao (TTRA), Dr Michelle Low (REDI) and Dr Amelia Vom (Biomedical Translation Bridge [BTB]) also joined MTPConnect in FY2021.

Lauren Kelly, who was Director of the BTB program, was promoted to the role of Senior Director of TTRA and Danielle Shand was promoted to Director of the BTB program.

Dr Meghana Kulkarni took-up a two-month internship at MTPConnect as Associate Project Manager working across the BTB and TTRA programs and subsequently secured a role as Project Manager with MTPConnect, supporting the Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network (AAMRNet) in Q1 FY2022.

Dr Emma Ball was selected as 'Guest of the Chair' for FY2021. Through as 12-month appointment, the Guest of the Chair joins MTPConnect Board meetings and activities to broaden their understanding of how boards operate and build their experiences as a future sector leader. Dr Amanda Ruth was recruited for the role for FY2022.

This year we said farewell to Shannan Osrin. Our long-term and much-valued communications coordinator, Shannan finished up with MTPConnect on 30 April 2021.

The MTPConnect team kicked off 2021 in a new head office in Cremorne, near Melbourne's CBD, providing a COVID-safe working environment for staff and our stakeholders.

Executive Summary

Executive Summary

As Australia's Growth Centre for the MTP sector, MTPConnect forges stronger connections between research and industry and maximises opportunities for Australians to make scientific and technological breakthroughs that are successfully translated and commercialised.

Focusing on the four objectives of the IGC initiative – increasing Collaboration and Commercialisation, improving Management and Workforce Skills, optimising the Regulatory and Policy Environment and improving access to Global Supply Chains and Markets – MTPConnect works to enhance outcomes from the pre-production, production and post-production phases of the medical products development and manufacturing cycle.

In this way, MTPConnect is building a more resilient and competitive medical products manufacturing sector.

MTPConnect has $182million in sector support funds under management, across six strategic funding initiatives

Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Industry Growth Centres

Growth Centre Project Fund

$15.6M grant value

40 projects

$34.8M matched industry contributions (cash and in-kind)

$1.2M State Government contributions

$205.2 external investment

31 projects completed

Australian Government
Department of Health
Medical Research Future Fund

BMTH BioMedTech Horizons PROGRAM
SUPPORTING TRANSLATION OF AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

$45M grant value
46 projects

bTb PROGRAM Biomedical TRANSLATION BRIDGE PROGRAM

$22.3M grant value
21 projects

RED DEVELOPING AUSTRALIA'S MTP SECTOR WORKFORCE

$32M grant value
13 program partners
31 training programs

TTRA TARGETED TRANSLATION RESEARCH ACCELERATOR
DIABETES · CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE

$47M grant value
7 research projects

CTCM Clinical Translation & Commercialisation Medtech

$19.75M grant value

Growth Centre Project Fund (DISER)
Through the GC Project Fund, MTPConnect has committed $15.6 million across 40 projects, which have achieved demonstrable results, including:

- 415 technologies being invented or progressed
- 294 patents, trademark applications and licences
- 242 new products launched
- 128 new start-up companies
- 1,298 direct and indirect jobs being created
- $205 million investment flowing into incubator companies

Medical Research Future Fund Projects (Department of Health)
MTPConnect has leveraged its successes in operating the GC Project Fund to secure five additional and complementary funding programs through the Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), worth $166 million and supporting more than 100 projects.

- BioMedTech Horizons: $45 million program/46 projects (includes five projects announced on 23 September 2021)
- Biomedical Translation Bridge: $22.3 million program/21 projects
- Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry: $32 million program/31 training programs/further rollout underway
- Targeted Translation Research Accelerator: $47 million/seven projects announced on 23 September 2021/further rollout underway
- Clinical Translation and Commercialisation – Medtech: $19.75 million (awarded to MTPConnect on 29 June 2021 and announced on 20 August 2021)

Return on Investment – initial Growth Centre investment parlayed into $661 million

Across MTPConnect's six strategic funding programs, a total of $94.9 million has so far been committed to support 145 projects, with more funding to be deployed in the coming years. With its focus on increasing collaboration and commercialisation, MTPConnect has been able to draw on multiple industry partners and substantial flow-on industry investment into projects to support them through the early stages of clinical development and maximise the chances for commercialisation success.

- 40 GC projects – $15.6 million investment has leveraged $36 million in matching industry and other contributions and generated a further $205 million in third-party, external investment.
- 105 MRFF projects – $79.3 million investment (so far) has leveraged $95 million in matching industry contributions and generated a further $230 million in flow-on external investment, including capital raises and other funding support.

Across all programs, MTPConnect's $94.9 million in strategic funding investments to date has yielded $566million in additional industry contributions and flow-on external investment.

MTPConnects Growth Centre project fund and MRFF program work has seen $661 million flow into Australia's MTP sector.

Industry-Focused Grant Reviews

In addition and separate to delivering strategic funding directly into the sector, MTPConnect assists research institutes and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with pre-submission review of their translational and industry-focused product development competitive grant applications. Over the last six years, this has included:

- 173 consortia advised/mentored prior to their application submission
- reviews of 359 MMI, ARC, CRC, CRC-P and GIL grant applications

This value-add activity has seen grants worth $306.8 million awarded to 64 MTPConnect-supported projects (not including matching industry funding).

Combining the $225.9million generated through MTPConnect's Growth Centre and MRFF granting programs to date, the additional flow-on external investment secured by those projects of $435.1 million and the $306.8 million from grant reviews, MTPConnect has contributed to $967.8 million flowing into Australia's medical products sector.

The GC and MRFF strategic funding programs enable MTPConnect to foster commercialisation and collaboration and address the skills gaps and key constraints identified across the sector. With significant funding still to be deployed by MTPConnect under these MRFF programs, we ensure that MTPConnect remains relevant as a major funding body over the next four years and can continue supporting translation of Australia's health and medical research into commercial and clinical outcomes.

The Government has approved an additional one year for Growth Centres, including MTPConnect, to spend any unspent grant funds remaining at 30 June 2022 in the following financial year, to 30 June 2023. This flexibility was agreed by the Government in recognition that it would assist a smooth transition to self-sustaining funding models.

The overall economic impact of MTPConnect's activities, calculated by applying a benefit-cost ratio of $3.90[1] to reflect the wider economic benefits of medical research, shows a total attributable return of ~$3.8 billion.

These real-world outcomes clearly demonstrate not only MTPConnect's impacts but also the effectiveness of the Growth Centre Initiative in supporting the growth of Australia's medical products sector.

1 KPMG 2018, *Economic Impact of Medical Research in Australia*

Highlights FY2021

Highlights FY2021

The 2021 financial year has been another year of achievement for MTPConnect.

New Growth Centre Project Fund projects

This year saw the launch of four new GC Project Fund projects; catalytic bodies to unlock the potential of four emerging fields of the medical products sector:

Antimicrobial resistance

Regenerative medicine

Genomics

Cardiovascular devices

Each new body is working to determine the value of these fields to the Australian economy, to identify the skills required to power their growth and advocate for a supportive policy and regulatory framework.

AAMRNet
The Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network – AAMRNet – is an Australian-first network bringing together key stakeholders from industry and research to address the impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on human health. The network was established to deliver on a key recommendation of the report, Fighting Superbugs, also published by MTPConnect this year. See page 21 details of our partners and more information about AAMRNet).

Regenerative Medicine Catalytic Body
Having conducted some of the world's first human stem cell trials in the 1980s, Australia's regenerative medicine (RM) field now accounts for around 10 per cent of our medical researchers and more than 30 companies are developing RM products. To harness this enormous potential, MTPConnect awarded funding to an AusBiotech-led consortium for a new body to drive collaboration, coordination and help build the foundations for regenerative medicine in Australia.

Joining MTPConnect and AusBiotech in the Regenerative Medicine Catalytic Body are: Novartis Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Ltd, Cell Therapies Pty Ltd, Medicines Australia, Biointelect Pty Ltd and Research Strategies Australia.

InGeNA
The Australasian Institute of Digital Health (AIDH) was awarded funding to establish the Industry Genomics Network Alliance (InGeNA). Genomics, and its potential to deliver personalised care to a patient, is a powerful development that is reshaping medical science and healthcare, with the global genomics market on track to generate US$41 billion by 2025. The new alliance is working to unlock the potential of Australia's precision medicine sector – not only to improve health outcomes for all Australians but to also build a stronger and more diverse industry that can contribute internationally. Along with AIDH, the 13 founding member companies bring matched funds and represent a 'who's who' of the genomics and precision medicine industry: 23 Strands, AbbVie, Amgen, Amicus, Applied Precision Medicine, Bristol Myers Squibb, Illumina, Roche, Sanofi, TrakGene, Janssen, Qiagen and Thermo Fisher Scientific.

Cardiovascular collaboration
The Cardiovascular Device Clinical Trial Collaborative Project was established by MTPConnect to boost Australia's involvement in clinical trials for research into cardiovascular devices. This new collaboration is led by the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance with partners including the Charles Perkins Centre at The University of Sydney and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

The project is working to map the medtech capabilities and resources specifically available to support cardiovascular medtech development in Australia. By creating an online searchable portal, the project will improve collaboration and promote the development of medical devices for cardiovascular disease in Australia. It is also developing a clinical trial service to support research groups to set up cardiovascular-related clinical trials on medical devices in Australia.

New strategic funding programs

MTPConnect continued to leverage its GC Project Fund successes to secure two new and complementary funding programs through the Department of Health's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF), adding $66.75 million in sector support funds under management.

Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) initiative – $47 million
The TTRA initiative is focused on diabetes and cardiovascular disease. It is stimulating collaboration across industry, research and clinical organisations to produce novel preventative interventions, diagnostic and therapeutic approaches and products for diabetes and cardiovascular disease that reduce the burden on patients, families and communities. With an emphasis on the pre-clinical and clinical development phases of medical products manufacturing, in January 2021 the TTRA program opened funding rounds for two new Research Centres ($20 million allocated) and Research Projects ($18 million allocated and $6 million for the first round). See page 32 for more information.

Clinical Translation and Commercialisation – Medtech (CTCM) program – $19.75 million
MTPConnect's CTCM program, funded under the MRFF's Early Stage Translation and Commercialisation Support grant opportunity, is aimed at increasing the number of innovative medical devices that progress through the early stages of research and development (R&D) and into early clinical trials. The program, to be rolled out by MTPConnect over the next four years, will see an additional $19.75 million injected into the medical technology sector. It is MTPConnect's fifth MRFF program.

Funding deployed into the sector

With more than $180 million in strategic funds under management, MTPConnect continues to make a substantial contribution to translating and commercialising Australian medical products and the development of critical workforce skills.

Across all programs, MTPConnect's $94.9 million in strategic funding investments to date has yielded $566 million in additional industry contributions and external investment to support 145 projects and targeted training for 2,215 participants.

Key outcomes for FY2021 included:

- **GC Project Fund:** $1.1 million committed to establishing four new projects, bringing matching funding for a total value of $2.2 million
- **BTB Rounds 2 and 3:** $10.4 million announced in September 2020 for 13 early-stage biomedical projects, including five initiatives directly tackling COVID-19. Industry partners committed $28 million for a total injection of $38.4 million into the sector.
- **BMTH Round 3:** $18.8 million announced in July 2020 for 21 early-stage medtech projects. MTPConnects investment attracted a commitment of $21.3 million in industry contributions, seeing a total of $40.1 million flow into the sector
- **BMTH Round 4**: $4 million (announced September 2021) for five medtech projects, leveraging an additional $5.1 million in contributions from industry for a total of $9.1 million injected into the sector
- **TTRA Research Projects Round 1:** $5.2 million (announced September 2021) for seven diabetes and cardiovascular disease research projects, with an additional $9.1 million in matching industry funds – a $14.3 million contribution to growing the sector
- **The REDI initiative**, operational for 12-months and continuing to expand, has deployed $8 million on training, upskilling and fellowships for 2,215 participants with a further $11 million already committed.

Flow-on investment

A key focus for MTPConnect is to support late pre-clinical and early clinical research and development of new medical products, with strong commercial potential, to the point where they are de-risked and able to secure further translational grants or are attractive to private investment or other commercialisation pathways. By linking research with industry and external development capital, we are maximising opportunities for medical product commercialisation success.

The investment and in-kind contributions to GC Project Fund-supported companies and projects exceeds $205 million over the life of the fund (2017 to 2021). This includes:

- Translational Research Institute (TRI) cleanroom facility companies at over $71 million
- ANDHealth at over $54 million
- Medtech Actuator at over $43 million
- Accelerating Australia at over $15 million
- The Translational Research Initiative for Cellular Engineering and Printing (TRICEP) at over $8 million.

Companies supported through MTPConnect's MRFF programs have generated more than $229 million in flow-on external investment, including:

- Capital raises for AdAlta ($8.1million), Atmo Biosciences ($9.6million), Dimerix ($20million), Starpharma ($48.9million) and Synchron ($52million)
- Government and other funding for an advanced manufacturing plant for WearOptimo ($30m)
- Additional grant funding for Cyban ($350,000), DBS Technologies ($1million), OncoRes Medical ($150,000) and ZiP Diagnostics ($750,000)

Sector reports

MTPConnect's policy papers and reports are much valued by the sector and this year saw the publication of eight new reports.

Fighting Superbugs
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) occurs when microbes like bacteria become resistant to drugs that once killed them. And as resistance increases, common infections become impossible to treat. MTPConnect's '*Fighting Superbugs*' report, released in September 2020, examines the challenges posed to human health by AMR. It also makes a series of recommendations for new and improved approaches to addressing drug resistance, including how to incentivise the development of new antimicrobials to tackle emerging superbugs.

The Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network – AAMRNet – was established by MTPConnect following recommendations made in this report.

COVID-19 impacts
As part of MTPConnect's ongoing commitment to documenting the impact of COVID-19 on Australia's MTP sector, the second report of the COVID-19 impact series, covering the period through to September 2020, was published in October 2020. Capturing the experiences of senior stakeholders from industry associations, companies, regulatory bodies, research organisations, government and funders, the report examines the sector's recovery, opportunities for growth and actions that can be taken to better prepare for future pandemics.

Regulation for digital health
Digital health technologies (DHTs) have the potential to disrupt the medical products sector and the broader delivery of healthcare. They also create challenges for the effective and timely regulation of new therapeutic goods. MTPConnect released the '*Adaptive Regulation for Digital Health*' report in February 2021, examining how digital health industry stakeholders are engaging with the Australian Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) regulatory framework. Focusing on DHTs regulated as medical devices, including software as a medical device (SaMD) and physical medical devices with associated software, the report provides critical reading for digital health start-ups and innovators.

Drug repurposing
MTPConnect released another sector resource in June 2021 – a report exploring the drug repurposing landscape in Australia. The report, '*Drug Repurposing: Building the Path to Australian Success*', was commissioned as part of MTPConnect's mission to drive connectivity, innovation, productivity and competitiveness in the MTP sector. It was developed in consultation with key stakeholders; – from consumer and patient organisations to researchers, pharmaceutical companies, regulators and commercialisation experts – and examines options to deliver more repurposed drugs in ways that improve people's health.

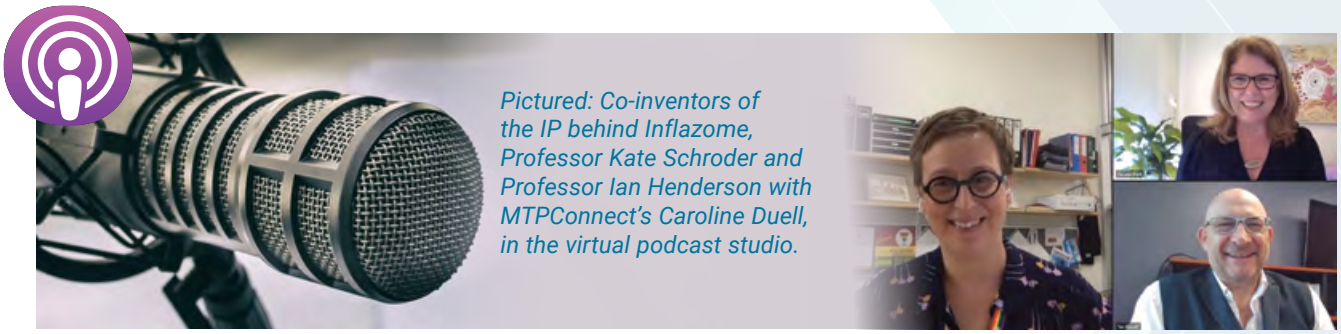
Workforce skills survey
With the MTP sector supporting around 70,000 Australian jobs and contributing more than $5 billion in Gross Value Added (GVA) to the economy, a detailed understanding of the workforce is critical to future growth. To better understand the sector's future workforce needs and skills gaps, an online survey was developed in consultation with MTPConnect and a cross-industry project team, including AusBiotech, ANDHealth, the Medical Technology Association of Australia (MTAA) and Medicines Australia. The findings were published in October 2020 as a new workforce report, '*A Survey of Workforce Skills and Capacity in the Medical Technology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical and Digital Health (MTP) Sector*'.

A 'root and branch' skills gap analysis
As part of our REDI program, a comprehensive 'root and branch' analysis of the sector's workforce was carried out. Through three reports, released in November 2020, March 2021 and October 2021, a broad set of skills gaps have been identified that need to be addressed to enable the Australian MTP sector to flourish. MTPConnect has provided funding to support the delivery of new education and training programs that address key skills gaps identified in these reports.

Clinical trials in Australia
Clinical trials are a critical step in the research and development process for new drugs, vaccines, medical devices and diagnostics. They also contribute to the development of a thriving research culture within Australia's healthcare system and promote Australia's international research profile. MTPConnect released a major new report, '*Australia's Clinical Trials Sector: Advancing innovative healthcare and powering economic growth*'. It examines how the sector is performing and its significant contribution to the Australian economy and better health outcomes. It also identifies opportunities for future growth (see page 20 for more information).

The podcast series scores a century

This year saw the release of the 100th episode of The MTPConnect Podcast series: a two-part special on the story behind Queensland start-up Inflazome and its $620 million deal with global pharmaceutical company, Roche. The episodes featured the co-inventor of the intellectual property (IP) behind Inflazome, Professor Kate Schroder and Professor Ian Henderson, the Director of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB).



Pictured: Co-inventors of the IP behind Inflazome, Professor Kate Schroder and Professor Ian Henderson with MTPConnect's Caroline Duell, in the virtual podcast studio.

Guest of the Chair

The Guest of the Chair is a unique workforce initiative aimed at giving emerging sector leaders exposure to a range of board-level activities. Dr Emma Ball, the then Director of Strategy and Business Development and Head of Search and Evaluation for CSL Limited, was selected from a strong field of candidates to be Guest of the Chair for FY2021. Over the course of the 12-month appointment, Dr Ball attended MTPConnect Board meetings, engaging with the Chair, directors and senior management and gaining new perspectives on how boards operate.

Over the course of the year, MTPConnect also commenced recruitment for the next Guest of the Chair. Applications closed on 15 May 2021 and the successful candidate, Dr Amanda Ruth, was announced in Q1 FY2022.

Other highlights

- As part of our initiatives in Western Australia, MTPConnect launched a voucher program to boost medical products manufacturing. Our WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub which is co-funded through the WA Government's New Industries Fund and the University of Western Australia, made available $450,000 to support SMEs to improve their capability to manufacture medical products.
- In recognition of MTPConnect's role in supporting the MTP sector and Australia's response to COVID-19, our Chair, Sue MacLeman, was appointed to the COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments for Australia – Science and Industry Technical Advisory Group (CITAG) which provides advice to the Australian Government on the purchasing and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.
- MTPConnect's Managing Director and CEO, Dr Dan Grant, gave evidence in April 2021 to the parliamentary inquiry into the approval processes for new drugs and novel medical technologies in Australia, taking the opportunity to highlight the challenges posed to human health by increasing antimicrobial resistance.
- We were proud to partner with Science and Technology Australia (STA) and support this year's Science Meets Parliament initiative and to sponsor the National Press Club Address by Australia's new Chief Scientist, Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM.

Pictured (L–R): MTPConnect Chair Sue MacLeman, incoming Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM and MTPConnect Managing Director and CEO Dr Dan Grant at the National Press Club in Canberra.

Clinical trials report

Clinical trials, an important part of the commercialisation pathway for medical products, were a major focus for MTPConnect this year. We released a major new report, *Australia's Clinical Trials Sector: Advancing innovative healthcare and powering economic growth*, which reveals the size and scope of Australia's clinical trials sector and opportunities for future growth.

Key findings from the report, which serves as an important resource for the sector, include:

- $1.4 billion contributed to the Australian economy in 2019
- Employs more than 8,000 Australians
- 95,000 Australians participated in clinical trials in 2019
- 1,880 trials started in 2019

The report, developed in partnership with L.E.K. Consulting, involved extensive and whole-of-sector stakeholder engagement, including an advisory group convened to guide the scope of the report, as well as AusBiotech, Medicines Australia, MTAA and the R&D Task Force.

The report was launched on 20 May 2021, International Clinical Trials Day, with a panel session event featuring sector leaders at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. Joining the MC, MTPConnect's Managing Director and CEO, Dr Dan Grant, the panellists included:

- Carrie Bloomfield (Director and Head of Clinical Operations at GSK Australia and Co-Chair of the R&D Task Force)
- Professor John Zalcberg (the then Chair of the Australian Clinical Trials Alliance [ACTA] and Director, Cancer Research Program, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University)
- Dr Janelle Bowden (Managing Director, AccessCR)
- Dr Megan Robertson (Group Chief Research Officer for St Vincent's Health Australia and Chair of the AusBiotech Clinical Trials Advisory Group)
- MTPConnect's Dr Rebecca Tunstall (Senior Director Stakeholder Engagement).

In his launch address, Dr Grant highlighted that clinical trials are an essential part of health and medical research and can lead to better health outcomes for patients.

"Australia's response to the COVID-19 pandemic gives us a window of opportunity to further strengthen our reputation as a clinical trials destination of choice," Dr Grant told the audience.

"Over the next 10 years, we have identified four emerging opportunities to capture a greater share of global clinical trials and grow the sector more rapidly. These relate to building our capability in precision healthcare in trials and undertaking innovative clinical trial design, applying digital health innovations to enhance patient recruitment and achieve efficiencies, and an increased focus on patient awareness and engagement to increase recruitment.

"We must continue to optimise efficiency in ethics and governance processes towards a single ethical review and we must address the shortage of highly skilled and experienced Clinical Research Associates (CRAs) and Clinical Trial Coordinators (CTCs)," Dr Grant said.

Pictured (L-R): Dr Janelle Bowden (AccessCR), Professor John Zalcberg (ACTA and Monash University), Carrie Bloomfield (R&D Task Force and GSK Australia), Dr Megan Robertson (St Vincent's Health), Dr Rebecca Tunstall and Dr Dan Grant from MTPConnect – panellists at the launch of MTPConnect's new report on Australia's clinical trials sector.

AAMRNet tackling antimicrobial resistance

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is on track to claim 10 million lives per year globally and put at risk a cumulative US$100 trillion of economic output if no action is taken by 2050. To successfully combat AMR, collaboration is crucial. The Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network – AAMRNet – is an Australian-first network bringing together key stakeholders to address the impact of AMR on human health.

The network was established in September 2020, delivering on a key recommendation of the report, *'Fighting Superbugs: A Report on the Inaugural Meeting of Australia's Antimicrobial Resistance Stakeholders'*, published by MTPConnect.

AAMRNet, operated by MTPConnect, is an industry-led, inclusive collaboration of stakeholders ensuring cross-sector input, investment and support.

Industry contributions provided by: Pfizer ANZ, CSIRO, MSD Australia, GSK Australia, Botanix Pharmaceuticals, SpeeDx, Medicines Australia, Biointelect and Monash University's Centre to Impact AMR.

Partners organisations include: DMTC Limited, Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP) – Switzerland, AusBiotech Ltd, Roche Diagnostics Australia, Menzies School of Health Research, Formulytica Pty Ltd , Epichem Pty Ltd, BiomeBank, Community for Open Antimicrobial Drug Discovery (CO-ADD), Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute and RESULTS International Australia.

AAMRNet includes and engages with key relevant Australian and global stakeholders across the health and medical research sector, the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry, clinicians, government and regulators. The result is the only Australian network that links all these key stakeholders together.

AAMRNet is well-placed to work closely with the Australian Government to deliver progress on its commitment to combat AMR.

MTPConnect's Vision and Performance

MTPConnect's Vision and Performance

MTPConnect's vision is for Australia's MTP sector to create more products that reach proof-of-concept stage and achieve greater commercialisation success, increase the number of companies with late-stage product successes and to maximise the value of Intellectual Property monetisation events along the way. This vision was developed through a series of wide-reaching sector consultations in 2016 and 2019 with over 600 participants and stakeholders.

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
3. acting as a trusted and independent voice to inform government on the key issues, challenges and opportunities for the sector.

Growth Centre Project Fund Outcomes

Commercialisation

Our GC projects achieved substantial results. From 2017 until the end of FY2021, these projects have resulted in 415 new technologies being invented or progressed, 294 patents/trademark applications and licences, 128 start-up companies formed, 1,298 new jobs created and more than $205 million of investment flowing into incubator companies.

	New technologies invented or progressed	**New patents, trademark applications** and **licences**	**New products** launched	**New start-up** companies formed	**New jobs** created in **project companies** (years – direct and indirect)	Total sector **investment** into new companies (cash and in-kind)
GC projects	415	294	242	128	1,298	$205.2M
Other MRFF projects	104	180	4	1	252	

Clinical trials

The GC project focused on assisting product development through product accelerators or education have had a significant impact on patients, with over 199,000 patients treated.

Preclinical and clinical **trials commenced** 737

New patients recruited to clinical trials 2,171

Increase in **patients treated** 199,785

Information sharing and workforce skills development

Many of the GC projects have focused on training within the MTP sector in specialised knowledge as well as training and collaboration events. From 2017 to 2021 the number of attendees in GC projects training is over 83,000 people. The REDI program is developing specific training programs in areas of identified skills gaps and has trained 2,215 individuals this year.

7,713 Individuals received workforce skills / commercialisation training

42,928 people attended **2,316** training events and information seminars

32,916 people attended **739** collaboration events

REDI training **2,215** people over **31** training programs

Grant Reviews (MMI, ARC, CRC, CRC-P & GIL)

In addition to delivering strategic funding directly into the sector, MTPConnect assists research institutes and SMEs with pre-submission review of their translational and industry-focused product development competitive grant applications. From 2017 to 2021, MTPConnect have advised 173 consortia resulting in 64 successful applications and an additional $306.8 million flowing into the MTP sector.

359 Applications reviewed

173 Consortia advised

Sector successes

Successful outcomes

64 grants awarded

$306.8M funding flowed to MTP sector

Delivering Projects for the Medical Research Future Fund

MTPConnect's GC work is complemented by five MRFF programs worth $166.05 million:

- The $45 million BioMedTech Horizons (BMTH) program
- The $22.3 million Biomedical Translation Bridge (BTB) program
- The $32 million Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (REDI) initiative
- The $47 million Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) initiative
- The $19.75 million Clinical Translation and Commercialisation – Medtech (CTCM) program (awarded to MTPConnect on 29 June 2021)

BioMedTech Horizons

The BMTH program launched in April 2018 to address gaps in early biomedical and medical technology product development and increase the number of viable, new medical technologies and devices reaching proof-of-concept stages or beyond, and that become attractive for private capital investment and commercialisation. It provides up to $1 million in funding over a maximum two-year period to help eligible organisations progress their innovations.

The program continues to deliver:

- In July 2020, MTPConnect and the Minister for Health and Aged Care, Hon Greg Hunt MP, announced the outcomes of Round 3 of the program, with $18.8 million awarded to 21 projects. The funding attracted a commitment of $21.3 million in industry contributions
- In September 2021, MTPConnect and the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, announced the outcomes of Round 4 of the program, with $4 million awarded to five projects. The funding attracted an additional $5.1 million in industry contributions.

Over the four rounds of BMTH, a total of $39.7 million has been allocated to 46 projects, with matching contributions from industry of $46.5 million.

The first round - BMTH1 - concluded in June 2021. BMTH1 focused on precision medicine and 3D-printed medical devices. Eleven projects were identified and funded as part of BMTH1, with nine successfully completing their program of works. Impact metrics for BMTH1 are shown below.

Commercialisation impact from grantees of the BMTH1 program

	New technologies invented or progressed	**New patents, trademark applications** and **licences**	**New products** launched	**New jobs** created in **project companies** (years – direct and indirect)	Total sector **investment** into new companies (cash and in-kind)
BMTH1	27	42	3	58	$23.5M

An overview of BMTH1 is provided in a program impact report. Key achievements include:

- WearOptimo securing $30 million to manufacture its smart sensor technology at an advanced technology facility in Brisbane – for worldwide distribution
- Carina Biotech selling IP licences to the international biopharmaceutical company, Biosceptre
- Anatomics initiating a US commercial launch of its 3D printed facial implants
- The Garvan Institute of Medical Research selling the fully validated Oncomine Cancer Genomics platform to SydPath
- The Bionics Institute establishing a commercial relationship with a world leading audiology medical device company for its EarGenie product
- Indee Labs generating over $1 million in revenue from top-tier pharmaceutical companies.

Details of all the projects funded in the BMTH program are included in the appendices (see page 132).

BMTH Case Study: Silk-based implants set to revolutionise the treatment of chronic middle ear disease

An innovative, Australian-developed device for the treatment of perforated eardrums has the potential to improve thousands of lives.

The World Health Organization estimates that up to 330 million people[2] suffer from chronic middle ear disease (CMED) – a condition that is particularly prevalent among Australian Indigenous children, who experience some of the highest rates of CMED in the world. As the most common cause of perforated (burst) eardrums, CMED is a major burden on the healthcare system. It can be difficult to contain, resulting in damage to patients' eardrums and mastoid bones, as well as ongoing hearing loss and pain. Sixty percent of CMED patients have a significant hearing impairment, which is directly linked to poor education, lower employment opportunities and a decline in mental health. Complications brought on by the condition, such as infections, contribute to the deaths of 28,000 people annually.

In a global first, the Western Australia-based Ear Science Institute Australia (ESIA) is developing a ground-breaking cure for CMED, one that will hopefully provide effective long-term solutions for patients. The research is backed with funding from Round 3 of MTPConnect's BMTH Program.

Working in collaboration with researchers from the Australian Research Council (ARC) Research Hub for Future Fibres at Deakin University, the ESIA team has created ClearDrum®, a mechanically and acoustically optimised silk-based implant that is the first of its kind to mimic the real properties of a natural eardrum.

Similar in appearance and size to a contact lens, ClearDrum is biocompatible and strong enough to resist negative middle ear pressure. It has been developed in two different formulations to suit varying patient needs: it can either dissolve over time to repair small perforations, or act as a long-lasting implant for larger perforations. Its transparency allows surgeons to easily monitor the healing process, during the surgical follow-up.

Current surgical treatments for CMED are complex and time consuming, and leave up to a third of patients with ongoing problems that require recurring operations. Using existing procedures, surgeons repair a perforated eardrum by making grafts from the patient's own tissue; they then use specialised microsurgery techniques to apply them to the eardrum.

In contrast, the ClearDrum® will provide a simpler off-the-shelf solution that aims to resolve these difficulties in a single and straightforward procedure. Also, it will allow the patients own cells to grow and flourish upon the membrane to heal the damaged eardrum; Not only is this insertion technique less invasive, but it produces better long-term care outcomes and avoids the need for follow-up surgeries and expenses – a game changer for the thousands of patients living with chronic perforated eardrums.

ESIA was awarded nearly $4 million from the UK's Wellcome Trust Translation Fund in 2017 this, together with the recent BMTH funding for the commercialisation phase, allows the research team to take the device to human clinical trials.

On receiving the BMTH funding, ESIA CEO Sandra Bellekom said: "Our plan is for ClearDrum to be available to patients in a clinical trial in 2021. Without funding such as this from MTPConnect, that opportunity for the end-user to benefit from our breakthrough research would be a lot further away."

The current stage of development of the project includes a working prototype, a strong international IP position, a contract manufacturer organisation and collaborations with a series of Australian companies and organisations to address various phases of pre-clinical and clinical development.

ESIA is one of six designated World Health Organization Collaborating Centres for Ear and Hearing Care, and delivers services such as cochlear implants, regional ear health, surgery and rehabilitation, and undertakes innovative ear and hearing research.

For more information, visit www.earscience.org.au.

2 World Health Organization, Retrieved on 16 March 2021 https://www.who.int/pbd/deafness/news/Millionslivewithhearingloss.pdf

Biomedical Translation Bridge

The BTB program launched in May 2019 to nurture the translation of new therapies, technologies and medical devices through to the proof-of-concept stage, with expert industry support. The program provides up to $1 million in funding to projects to accelerate the development of their innovation.

MTPConnect works with its venture partners – BioCurate, UniQuest, the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) and with the Bridge and BridgeTech programs – to provide awardees with expert commercialisation advice, mentoring and project management support and training.

BTB continues to deliver:

- In September 2020, MTPConnect and the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, announced the outcomes of rounds 2 and 3 of the program, with $10.4 million awarded to 13 early-stage biomedical projects. These included five projects directly tackling COVID-19. Industry partners contributed a further $28 million, with these rounds delivering a total injection of $38.4 million into the sector.

Over the three rounds of BTB, a total of $15.4 million has been allocated to 21 projects, with additional matching contributions committed from industry of $38.4 million.

Projects supported by the BTB program are demonstrating translation and commercial successes:

- Starpharma's COVID-19 nasal spray has been successfully registered for sale in Europe and the UK. This registration allows for the marketing of its product across the European Economic Area (EEA) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. A commercial partnership has been established with one of the UK's largest pharmacy retailers, and the product has now launched in Europe.
- Dimerix was awarded $1 million to support the inclusion of its compound, DMX-200, in a global clinical study in COVID-19 patients with respiratory complications. The company has been able to speed up manufacturing activities with a US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved manufacturer capable of making millions of doses in the event the compound successfully demonstrates its effectiveness in reducing lung damage caused by COVID-19.
- The University of Melbourne's patient isolation hood that protects healthcare workers from COVID-19 has seen clinical trials conducted in Intensive Care Units (ICUs) at Western Health's Footscray and Sunshine hospitals. The hoods have been successfully deployed in rural areas of Australia, particularly those without specialised facilities and negative pressure rooms. They have also been deployed internationally in Papua New Guinea and the Republic of Nauru.

Details of all the projects funded in the BTB program are included in the appendices (see page 137).

L–R: MycRx's Dr Richard Foitzik (Director of Medicinal Chemistry), Dr Sangkyu Kim (Head of Biology), Dr Alison Thistlethwaite (Operations Manager) and Dr Chris Burns (Senior Vice President of Research and Development and Chief Commercial Officer). Photo by Julian Dolman.

BTB Case Study: Shining a light on collaboration to accelerate anti-cancer drug discovery

The development of novel, small molecule therapeutics is enabling significant potential advances in cancer treatment.

MycRx based in Melbourne is an early-stage drug development company advancing first-in-class small molecule inhibitors of the Myc oncoprotein to treat oncology indications such as lung cancer. MycRx was awarded $900,000 matched funding in Round 1 of MTPConnect's BTB program and was supported by BTB venture partner BioCurate. At the end of June 2021, MycRx was the first of the cohort to complete its BTB program.

The expression of the protein Myc, a protein that causes cancerous cells from a wide range of organs and tissues to divide uncontrollably, is deregulated in more than half of all human cancers. As such, inhibition of Myc is deemed to be of considerable merit in cancer drug discovery and a small molecule Myc inhibitor could have extensive utility in cancer treatment. The potential drug leads developed by MycRx directly target Myc. If successful, MycRx's resulting pharmaceutical products could have broad application for the treatment of a significant number of cancers, including lung cancer.

The BTB grant has enabled collaboration between MycRx and Australian local and interstate research institutes and organisations – Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, CSIRO, the Centre for Drug Candidate Optimisation (CDCO), Monash University, RMIT University and Griffith University. Each of these institutes offers sophisticated scientific and technical expertise in research applications and techniques that have helped support the development of MycRx's small molecule Myc inhibitors.

Executive Director of Cancer Research at Peter MacCallum, Prof Ricky Johnstone, stated: "The research collaboration between MycRx and Peter Mac is strategically important, mutually beneficial and scientifically very exciting. For many years, drugging Myc has been great in theory but almost impossible to achieve. We believe that our partnership with MycRx provides the best opportunity for us to finally achieve this aspirational goal."

The promising data package MycRx has generated to date has attracted interest from investors and commercial partners. As Dr Chris Burns, MycRx's Senior Vice President of Research and Development, explained: "The research enabled through the BTB grant has allowed us to further progress our promising drug leads to generate, with our collaborators, encouraging data showing the potential of these molecules in cancer treatment."

For more information, visit www.mycrxpharma.com

Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry (REDI)

Improving workforce skills and driving jobs growth is the focus of the $32 million REDI initiative, awarded to MTPConnect in February 2020. The program is providing industry experiences and skills development for students, researchers, clinicians, MTP sector professionals, entrepreneurs and innovators. The initiative is building an industry-ready workforce with the skills and capacity to keep pace with the demands of a rapidly changing sector for now and into the future.

Skills gaps

REDI has supported a comprehensive 'root and branch' analysis of the sector's workforce, with priority skills gaps identified in three reports. In the first report, published in November 2020, three high priority skills gaps were identified: understanding of quality management systems and protocols; awareness of the importance and best-practice management of cyber security; and clinical trial design to meet regulatory requirements and payer needs. The second report, published in March 2021, identified 20 skills gaps spanning seven key themes: advanced manufacturing and supply chain; business operations; clinical trials; health data and cybersecurity; health economics and regulatory affairs; product development and commercialisation; and specialist and technical skills. The third report, published in October 2021, focused on skills gaps in areas that have become more pronounced due to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as biosecurity, infectious disease resilience and advanced manufacturing.

MTPConnect has provided funding to support the delivery of new education and training programs that address key skills gaps identified in these reports.

Training, development and mentoring

REDI has expanded to comprise 13 partners that deliver targeted, high-quality training, development and mentoring programs. They include:

- Flinders University (MDPP)
- ANDHealth
- MedTech Actuator
- The George Institute for Global Health
- SeerPharma
- ARCS Australia
- Cicada Innovations
- Biointelect consortium (including ARCS Australia and Biodesign Australia)
- GSK Australia
- VCCC Alliance
- APR.Intern
- The Bridge and BridgeTech programs
- The Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS)

Industry Fellowships

The REDI Fellowship Program has appointed its first four fellows. The program provides financial support for Australian, international and/or multinational companies to bring the best talent in-house to work on priority research projects. Interest in the program has been strong attracting applicants from across Australia. The REDI Fellowship Program provides up to $250,000 per fellow, per annum to allow fellows to be embedded within an industry sponsor. Applications remain open on a continuous basis.

The REDI program continues to deliver results:

Core partners have so far delivered $4.8 million in training programs which have reached 2,054 participants.

Training providers ARCS Australia, SeerPharma, Cicada Innovations and the Biointelect consortium, selected to deliver new programs addressing skills gaps identified in our skills gap reports, will deliver $1.6 million in training as their programs roll out, supporting 1,130 participants, with over 161 participants attending training so far.

The REDI Fellowship Program has deployed $818,000 to support four fellows working in industry.

Pictured: caricature of the six GSK graduate researchers. Image reproduced with kind permission from Dr Stephanie Yee.

REDI Case Study: GSK Australia spring boarding graduate careers with new Graduate Researcher Program

GSK Australia is helping to bridge the skills gap between academia and the pharmaceutical industry, through its new three-year program for PhD graduates supported by MTPConnect's REDI initiative.

The GSK Australia Graduate Researcher Program, was launched in March 2021 and is the organisation's first program to offer PhD graduates hands-on experience in the medicines and vaccines industry.

Over the course of a 12-month placement, six PhD graduates will make meaningful contributions to key GSK business units, including regulatory and medical affairs in oncology, respiratory, vaccines and more. Six places will be available each year, over a three-year timeframe.

GSK Australia's program has been developed in partnership with MTPConnect's $32 million REDI initiative – funded through the Australian Government's MRFF, and designed to facilitate the cross pollination of scientific, academic research expertise with that of the pharmaceutical industry.

MTPConnect Managing Director and CEO Dr Dan Grant said that the REDI partnership with GSK Australia is providing valuable industry experience for researchers.

"We are very pleased to partner with GSK Australia on their Graduate Researcher Program through our REDI initiative which is supporting the development of our future workforce. GSK is offering our brightest minds the opportunity for industry experience and it's exciting to see the impact of this collaboration and the connections being made on both sides," Dr Grant said.

Dr Stephanie Yee, a graduate researcher participating in the 2021 GSK program is confident that the program will continue to be instrumental in broadening her professional portfolio and building meaningful connections in the pharmaceutical industry.

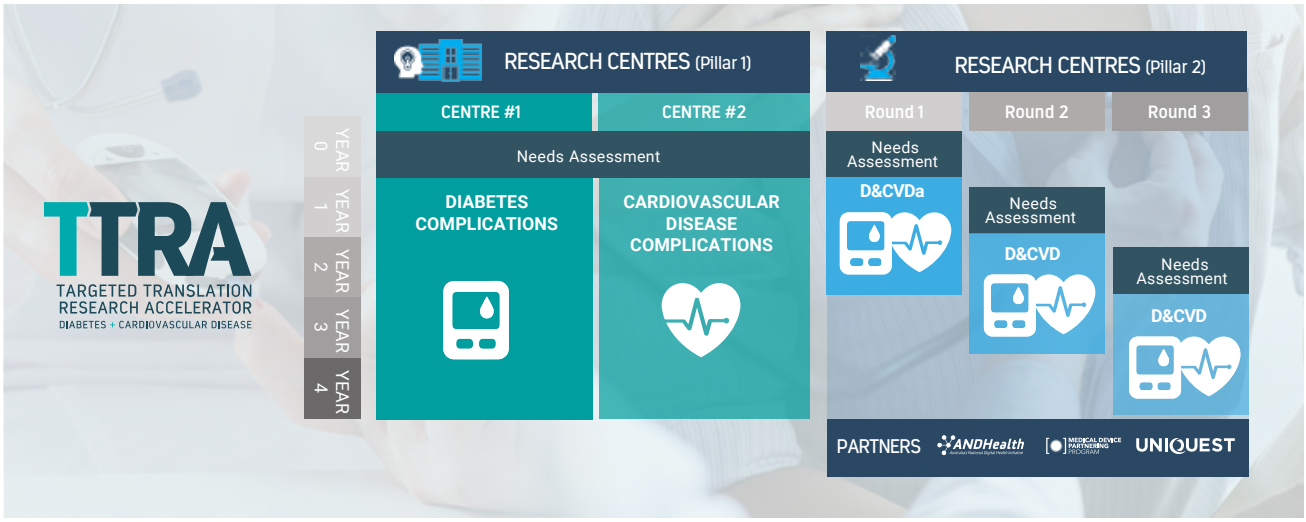
"The GSK Graduate Researcher Program has been an eye-opening experience. I've really enjoyed exploring different areas of the business and seeing how researchers can make an impact in industry. Working alongside industry experts here at GSK has also given me an opportunity to broaden my skillset, and I'm incredibly thankful for the support and mentorship that I've received along the way," Dr Yee said.

GSK is committed to working closely with leading local researchers and clinicians to ensure that Australian patients can access the latest global innovations. The contributions of this cohort of graduate researchers to its projects and operations will be important in driving innovation for Australian patients. Recruitment for the 2022 intake of the GSK Australia Graduate Researcher Program opened in October 2021.

For more information, visit www.au.gsk.com/en-au/home/

Story reproduced with kind permission of GSK Australia.

Targeted Translation Research Accelerator



MTPConnect is delivering the TTRA initiative to stimulate collaboration across industry, research and clinical organisations to support innovative diagnostics, medical devices, therapeutics, digital health solutions and behavioural interventions for diabetes and cardiovascular disease (D&CVD) that reduce the burden on individuals, families and communities. The TTRA initiative, awarded to MTPConnect in June 2020, is taking an inclusive, national approach to working with clinicians, researchers, health administrators, public health specialists, health economic experts, consumers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and rural and remote populations.

The TTRA initiative, over its funding term, will:

- Establish two new Research Centres for diabetes and cardiovascular disease (Pillar 1)
- Establish a contestable funding program to support D&CVD Research Projects (Pillar 2)
- Promote the clinical and commercial translation of novel therapeutics, diagnostics, devices, digital solutions and behavioural interventions for D&CVD.

MTPConnect is delivering this initiative in collaboration with the TTRA Expert Advisory Board. Chaired by Professor Ian Frazer AC – a clinical immunologist, co-inventor of the HPV vaccine and professor at The University of Queensland, the board brings deep expertise around commercialisation, D&CVD advocacy, knowledge of the lived experience, clinical and research perspectives and the investment viewpoint to the governance of the TTRA initiative.

The program is delivered with mentoring and commercialisation advice provided by TTRA partners ANDHealth, MDPP and UniQuest.

The TTRA program is delivering outstanding results:

- In September 2021, $5.2 million in funding was announced for seven research projects. The funding attracted a further $9.1 million in matching cash and in-kind contributions from industry and the sector. The supported projects will see Australians benefit from improved telehealth-aided mental health support; a novel therapeutic for treatment of diabetes-induced kidney disease; a new injectable therapy to treat peripheral arterial disease; a new antithrombotic therapy to treat clots and reduce stroke; a new medical device to detect unstable plaques to prevent heart attacks; a diagnostic software tool to assess plaque vulnerability; and a software program to improve management of chronic diseases like D&CVD in general practice.

Details of all the projects funded by the TTRA program are included in the appendices (see page 140).

TTRA Case Study: National and sector-wide needs assessment

To ensure that the significant TTRA program investments made through the Research Centres and Research Projects funding opportunities would build upon existing successful initiatives and fill unmet needs for D&CVD, a systematic needs assessment was undertaken, with prioritisation research partners Australian National University, Monash University's BehaviourWorks Australia, and Research Australia.

Through an on-line survey, 318 experts and consumers across Australia generated over 900 research priorities and unmet needs. Three roundtable discussions – each involving 20 participants – undertook priority-setting exercises of the de-duplicated list. Care was taken to balance perspectives (biomedical research, clinical, commercial, public health, consumer, health administration and First Nations viewpoints) as well as geographical locations (state-based, national, international, urban, regional, rural, remote) of the roundtable participants. Following consideration of the quantitative polling results and qualitative discussion outputs from the roundtables, the priority areas for the TTRA Research Centres and Round 1 Research Projects funding opportunities were set as:

Cardiovascular Disease Research Centre

- Coronary artery disease (including angina and major adverse cardiac event [MACE])
- Cardiomyopathy / heart failure
- Transient ischaemic attack (TIA) / stroke (ischaemic and haemorrhagic)

Diabetes Research Centre

- Diabetic kidney disease
- Peripheral neuropathy and diabetic foot syndrome
- Short-term complications of hypoglycaemia and/or hyperglycaemic hyperosmolar syndrome (HHS) and ketoacidosis.

Round 1 Research Projects address one of the following priority areas:

- Mental health conditions in people living with at least two of the following: Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease; or
- Chronic kidney disease in people living with at least two of the following: Type 1 diabetes, Type 2 diabetes and/or cardiovascular disease; or
- Cardiac and vascular complications arising in people living with diabetes (Type 1 or Type 2) and cardiovascular disease; OR cardiovascular disease in people living with Type 1 diabetes and insulin resistance (double diabetes).

Expressions of interest for the Research Centres and Round 1 Research Projects opened in January 2021 and the Research Project recipients were announced in September 2021.

A second needs assessment to inform Round 2 of the Research Projects funding opportunity, commenced in June 2021, employing the same consultative prioritisation approach with the D&CVD sectors.

Round 2 opened a $6 million funding opportunity in September 2021, closing on 25 November 2021.

For more information, visit www.mtpconnect.org.au/programs/TTRA

How MTPConnect is Addressing the Growth Centre Program Objectives

How MTPConnect is Addressing the Growth Centre Program Objectives

The objective of the Growth Centres Initiative is to improve the productivity and competitiveness of six sectors of competitive strength and strategic priority in the Australian economy. To drive connectivity, innovation, productivity and competitiveness in Australia's MTP sector, MTPConnect systematically addresses the four GC objectives: improving collaboration and commercialisation, improving management and workforce skills, optimising the regulatory and policy environment and improving access to global supply chains and markets.

MTPConnect Growth Centre Objectives

1

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

2

Improving management and workforce skills necessary for sector growth

3

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

4

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

Objective 1 Improving Collaboration and Commercialisation

Team Activities

MTPConnect is working to make Australia more effective in translating research into commercial outcomes. Achieving this requires not only effective research and start-up sub-sectors, but a healthy, full value-chain ecosystem covering the pre-production, production and post-production phases of advanced medical products manufacturing.

During the first quarter of FY2021, MTPConnect launched the Australian Antimicrobial Resistance network – AAMRNet and a new report, '*Fighting Superbugs: A Report on the Inaugural Meeting of Australia's Antimicrobial Resistance Stakeholders*'. AAMRNet is a unique collaboration involving academia, government, industry, clinicians and consumer groups to mobilise Australia's strengths in research and commercialisation in tackling antimicrobial resistance (see page 21 for more details).

The *'Fighting Superbugs'* report was released at an industry roundtable webinar event with messages of support from home and abroad, including from the Secretary of the Department of Health, Dr Brendan Murphy and Pfizer's Global Chief Medical Officer, Dr Pol Vandenbroucke. The launch event has been released as an episode of The MTPConnect Podcast series.

Pictured at the Fighting Superbugs launch event: Top L–R MTPConnect CEO and Managing Director Dr Dan Grant, Secretary of the Department of Health Dr Brendan Murphy, Australian Representative for GARDP and Business Development Executive for the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND) Paul Field.

Middle L–R GARDP Executive Director Dr Manica Balasegaram, Biointelect Managing Director Jenny Herz, Pfizer's Global Chief Medical Officer Dr Pol Vandenbroucke, Opal Biosciences Managing Director and MTPConnect Director Julie Phillips.

Bottom L–R The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research Director Professor David Paterson, Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator (CARB-X) Executive Director Professor Kevin Outterson and Medicines Australia CEO Elizabeth de Somer.

With a focus on practical assistance with translation and commercialisation and supporting the advanced manufacturing of medical products, as detailed in the MMS, MTPConnect's BMTH and BTB teams hosted a special virtual meeting for 62 of their funding recipients on what are the key considerations when developing a global medical technology commercialisation strategy. Three experts from Med2Mark, an international consulting practice specialising in the translation of biotechnology and medical technology innovations, shared their experiences and insights on commercialisation strategies with attendees.

To help the sector secure funding to support commercialisation efforts, we ran a seminar series webinar in November 2020 – 'Show Me The Money: Preparing Successful Commercialisation Funding Applications'. Experts in the field of reviewing and writing funding applications shared their tips, including gemaker Communications Specialist Rebecca Colless, Biocomm Squared CEO Dr Andy Gearing, Director of Biomedical Innovation at The University of Western Australia Professor Kevin Pfleger and MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant. The event, hosted by MTPConnect's Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Western Australia, Dr Tracey Wilkinson, is available as an episode of The MTPConnect Podcast series or as an on-demand video.

We held a seminar series event in partnership with BioMelbourne Network, attracting a large audience who tuned in to hear from an expert panel about the opportunity to access Round 11 of Cooperative Research Centres Projects (CRC-P) Grants for short-term industry-led research collaborations, including medical products manufacturing. The Modern Manufacturing Initiative (MMI) was also discussed, with special guest Adrian March from DISER providing an overview of the program and opportunities to access funding to enhance medical products manufacturing. The seminar is available on our website as an on demand video and as a podcast episode.

Growth Centre Project Fund recipient, MDPP, launched the first medtech online Capability Directory which has listing details of more than 2,650 Australian organisations relevant to the medical device industry, bringing together expert research, clinical and manufacturing capabilities of Australian organisations. Since the launch, the directory has seen significant

interest from additional organisations requesting to be added to the directory or updating their entry. MTPConnect is proud to fund this initiative as the final deliverable in the MDPP national expansion project through the GC Project Fund initiative.

Appearing at the ARCS Australia annual conference in June 2021, MTPConnect Chair, Sue MacLeman, spoke at the plenary session on building Australia's competitive advantage post-COVID. MTPConnect also hosted a panel session on national and international initiatives improving clinical trials in Australia, with the session co-chaired by Ms MacLeman and Dr Dan Grant and featuring a presentation by our Senior Director of Stakeholder Engagement, Dr Rebecca Tunstall.

We brought together a panel of industry experts for the event, including: Johnson & Johnson Innovation's Kathy Connell, Brandon Capital's Helga Mikkelsen, SpeeDx's Colin Denver, Dimerix Limited's Dr Nina Webster

Panellists shared practical advice and first-hand case studies with 90 participants from all areas of the sector. Key sessions have been made available through The MTPConnect Podcast series.

With COVID-19 pandemic restrictions forcing an increasing reliance on online events and meetings, MTPConnect delivered a Skills Summit for the April seminar series webinar exploring how start-ups and SMEs can partner effectively at virtual conferences when seeking new strategic partnerships for funding or collaboration.

We continue to support collaboration throughout the sector with various sponsorships and virtual events:

- We partnered with Life Sciences Queensland and the Queensland Government's Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation (as it was then known) to present a regulatory webinar on 21 July 2020, where our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Queensland, Andrew Bowskill, presented.
- We also partnered with the Australian Research Council to present a medical research policy seminar on 20 July 2020, where our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for New South Wales Dr Duncan Macinnis presented.
- PRAXIS Australia continued its 'Building Resilience in Times of COVID-19' series of webinars throughout the year which were supported by MTPConnect.
- MTPConnect supported Cicada Innovations' August Monthly Buzz event which featured digital health founders and their stories.
- We sponsored the University of Western Australia's Quantitative Imaging Workshop in Perth
- We sponsored the 2020 Innovate Health virtual conference, where our Managing Director and CEO Dr Dan Grant presented on Australian innovation – with a focus on COVID-19 response and digital health opportunities
- The MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub supported the WA BioInnovation Showcase

New Funding to Support Medical Products Manufacturing in Western Australia

MTPConnect launched a new voucher program to boost medical products manufacturing in Western Australia. Funding of $450,000 was made available through the MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub, which is co-funded by MTPConnect, the Government of Western Australia's New Industries Fund and The University of Western Australia. The vouchers are aimed at SMEs and will help build Western Australia's medical products manufacturing capabilities. Successful applicants were announced in Q2 FY2022.

Leveraged Funding

MTPConnect manages the BMTH, BTB, REDI and TTRA programs for the MRFF.

BMTH, TTRA and REDI opened funding rounds this year, resulting in funding for a total of 74 new product development projects and leveraging of significant matching contributions from industry. See page 25 for more details.

Pictured (L-R): The MDPP team – Aaron Mohtar, Debbie Cocks, Professor Karen Reynolds, Olivia White, Dr Andrew Milligan and Stephen Blakeney – at the SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards in Adelaide in February 2021.

Case Study: Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP)

What began as an ideas incubator for the South Australian medtech sector has expanded nationally - setting a new benchmark for the translation of medical device technology in Australia.

Any innovator aspiring to bring their idea for a medical device to life requires input from a veritable army of experts. Researchers, clinicians, end-users, manufacturers, commercialisation organisations: establishing relationships with these and other stakeholders is imperative, yet for start-ups and small companies in particular, it can be difficult to know who to approach, let alone how to engage them on a project. As a result, many potentially ground-breaking ideas are left unexplored.

Hoping to streamline this process, Professor Karen Reynolds and her team from Flinders University created the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP): an initiative that connects medical device innovators with a network of experts who can help turn their ideas into market-ready products. Since its inception in 2008, the program has leveraged the expertise of South Australia's medical device and manufacturing community, fostering collaborations between researchers, end-users and government to drive the early-stage development of innovative medical and assistive technologies. To date, the program has considered more than 680 ideas for new medical devices and completed over 170 workshops and 100 R&D projects. In recognition of its impact on the medtech sector, the MDPP was recently presented with the Excellence in Science and Industry Collaboration award at the 2020 SA Science Excellence and Innovation Awards, which honour the depth and diversity of scientific endeavour and research in South Australia.

In 2017, the MDPP was awarded an MTPConnect Growth Centre Project Fund grant to investigate a national expansion of the program. In March 2019 the MDPP expanded nationally establishing a Victorian node at Swinburne University of Technology, with more support from MTPConnect, the South Australian Government's Department for Innovation and Skills and the Victorian Government's LaunchVic initiative. MDPP has built upon the connections already established in South Australia; to nurture an extensive network of expertise that can help fast-track technology development and achieve stronger commercial outcomes for the medtech sector nationwide.

The program's ultimate goal is for Australia to set the global standard for the rapid translation of medical devices, from concept through to finished product.

This first step towards national expansion has been an undisputed success. Between March 2019 and November 2020, enquiries to the idea's incubator increased by over 150 percent and more than 250 ideas for novel medical or assisted devices were assessed by the MDPP Innovations team. In addition, 54 entrepreneurs were given the opportunity to present and have their ideas validated at a multidisciplinary stakeholder workshop. Of these, 26 were awarded an MDPP R&D project grant.

The launch has likewise delivered considerable benefits to Victoria, creating employment opportunities and connecting start-ups and existing companies with the stat's robust research and development community. As Victorian Minister for Jobs, Innovation and Trade, the Hon. Martin Pakula MP, said: "MDPP is designed to add significant value to a rapidly growing medtech sector, strongly connecting university capabilities with health entrepreneurs."

As part of its national expansion, MDPP has also launched the first dedicated online capability directory, which lists the details of more than 2,600 Australian organisations relevant to the medical device industry. Bringing together expert research, clinical and manufacturing capabilities, the directory can be used by businesses to identify research organisations that can help them develop new products, or by start-ups looking for advanced manufacturers to build new products.

MDPP Director Professor Karen Reynolds has revealed that the aim of the directory is to cultivate Australia's position as a global leader in the growing medical devices market.

"Our new capability directory is going to make it a lot easier for innovators to tap into the rich sovereign ecosystem that exists here and get the support they need to develop, commercialise and locally manufacture a new medical device," she said.

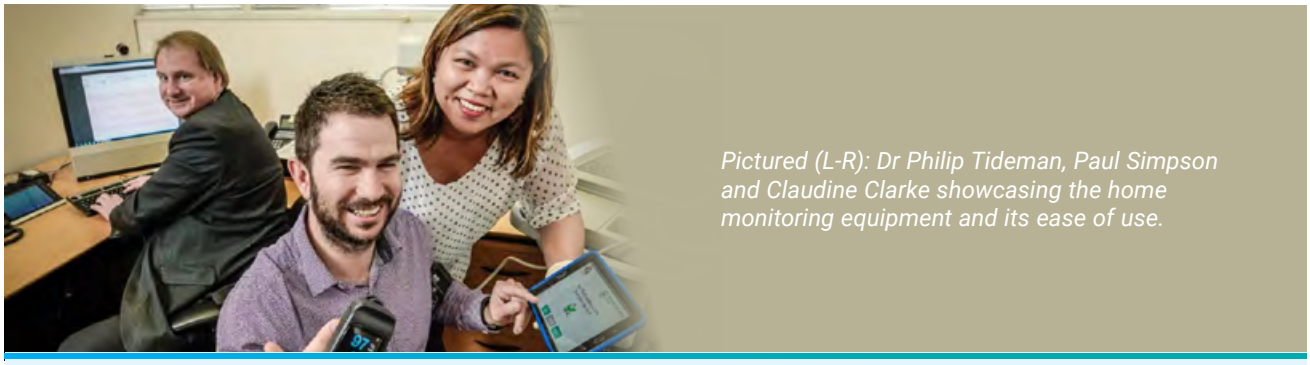
The directory is particularly useful for teams working on time-sensitive projects and has already proved valuable during the recent coronavirus pandemic, Professor Reynolds added.

"As we move into a new era of adaptation and flexibility, driven by extraordinary challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, manufacturers can pivot into new markets when given the opportunity and connections to do so and our capability directory can help," she said.

"We experienced this firsthand when setting up a PPE testing facility with UniSA to support a COVID-19 face mask testing facility for Australia. The connections to experts in materials science, medical device research, clinical validation and therapeutic product regulation in the directory made it possible to do so rapidly."

For more information, visit MDPP and check out the Capability Directory.

MEDICAL DEVICE PARTNERING PROGRAM



Pictured (L-R): Dr Philip Tideman, Paul Simpson and Claudine Clarke showcasing the home monitoring equipment and its ease of use.

Case Study: AI platform improving health outcomes for patients with chronic illness in rural South Australia

A digital platform that uses artificial intelligence for chronic disease clinical decision support is bringing a new model of care to cardiac patients in rural areas.

For more than five years, South Australia's iCCnet (Integrated Cardiovascular Clinical Network SA) has deployed a telehealth home-monitoring program throughout remote and rural parts of the state, to ensure people living with cardiovascular conditions and other chronic illnesses receive high standards of care.

One of the program's key objectives is to keep patients away from primary healthcare services as much as possible, by allowing them to self-monitor at home with easy-to-use testing equipment. Participants are provided with a personalised kit, comprising a range of tools such as blood pressure monitors and pulse oximeters, so they can measure their vitals independently. Their results are then reviewed by their medical team, with any red flags triggering a phone call from staff.

Until recently, the system was overseen by a team of nurses and scientists who manually analysed patient data. But with support from MTPConnect's Growth Centre Project Fund in 2017, iCCnet has built upon its home-monitoring program with Hospital 4.0: a cloud-based artificial intelligence (AI) digital health platform that uses clinically derived algorithms to review patient results and submit alerts to staff when elevated risk factors are identified and patients require attention.

Hospital 4.0, which currently has around 100 patients enrolled, is halfway through a 12-month validation period, during which time patients are monitored by iCCnet staff in parallel to the system's algorithms, to confirm that the algorithms match manual clinical assessments. Eventually, the project will allow the same number of staff to monitor at least twice the number of patients – even more, over time, as the algorithms are developed and refined.

The program offers numerous benefits to patients and the broader healthcare system: widespread self-monitoring alleviates the burden on the sparse healthcare services in remote regions; chronic illnesses are actively monitored, preventing them from escalating; and patients are given peace-of-mind knowing that their health is being monitored by a medical team.

Another benefit came to light in 2020, with the onset of COVID-19 highlighting a problem in the delivery of healthcare, whereby sick and high-risk patients were forced to gather in waiting rooms to be seen by medical staff.

As Rosy Tirimacco, Operations and Research Manager at iCCnet, explained: "[2020 has shown that] telemedicine and home monitoring will play a crucial role in the future of primary healthcare. During the pandemic, the iCCnet home-monitoring platform, which usually applied to cardiovascular disease, was repurposed to help South Australians suffering from COVID-19, so that if we entered a second phase it could be used to regularly monitor a patient's health symptoms in hospitals, homes and quarantine hotels."

Ms Tirimacco added that there are also plans to expand the program further, to support patients afflicted with other illnesses. "Over the past 18 months, the team has developed algorithms that will assist us in monitoring patients with hypertension, diabetes, heart failure or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease," she said.

"Patients across remote and rural South Australia are now being monitored by nurses and scientists to validate and tune the algorithms, ultimately allowing more patients to have their health monitored regularly from their own homes."

To date, Hospital 4.0 has garnered positive feedback from clinicians and patients alike. Clinicians report that patients seem to have developed a greater understanding of their condition; to be 'quite inspired' to take accountability for their own health and make lifestyle changes, when required.

One patient, who presents at a medical clinic twice weekly for dressing on a diabetic ulcer, is more in-tune with the day-to-day management of her condition since joining the monitoring program. Another patient had been experiencing hypoglycaemia due to a change in her medication, which was reported by her monitors. She has also made several life adjustments and is now better equipped to self-manage her illness.

Meanwhile, hospital staff find the convenience of being able to look at patient data prior to appointments means more time is spent in discussion with the patient during the consultation, rather than taking measurements and reviewing results.

While Hospital 4.0 is currently only available in South Australia, the infrastructure is commercially scalable to extend to other parts of the country and beyond – a move that will enable healthcare providers to establish a central network to deliver the best care possible to patients, wherever they happen to be.

iCCnet includes over 70 hospitals, health centres and GP surgeries across South Australia. Its mission is to provide a state-wide provider clinical network that supports the practice of evidence-based medicine and continuous quality improvement in the management of cardiovascular disease across regional, rural and remote South Australia. For more information, visit iCCnet.

For more information, visit www.iccnetsa.org.au

Pictured: SpeedDx and SynGenis teams meet in Perth to discuss oligonucleotides supply.

Case Study: East meets West – The Chemistry of a Perfect Match for SpeeDx and SynGenis

A new partnership between Perth-based oligonucleotides manufacturer SynGenis and Sydney-based diagnostic company SpeeDx has led to an investment and ongoing collaboration between the two companies.

SpeeDx is a privately owned company that specialises in innovative multiplex real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) solutions for clinical diagnostics. The Sydney-based organisation has a portfolio of kits for detection of infectious disease pathogens and antimicrobial resistance markers, including COVID-19.

In the wake of the pandemic, demand rose for diagnostics along the supply chain, but SpeeDx faced constrained supply of oligonucleotides (oligo) which are a critical component of its diagnostic kits. Oligonucleotides are molecules, oligomers, that have a wide range of applications in genetic testing, research and forensics. When Australia's last oligo manufacturer closed its doors in late 2019, the company was forced to look to overseas manufacturing facilities for supply.

"[We were] totally reliant on overseas production suppliers, and suppliers that the rest of the world were reliant on. It seems that everyone was scaling up at the exact same time," SpeeDx CEO Colin Denver said.

"Oligo lead times from the overseas suppliers were up to a year for more complex molecules. A typical lead time before COVID was a month," SpeeDx Director of Operations Tom Lin added.

Perth start-up SynGenis was established in late 2020 by Associate Professor Rakesh Veedu, who had run the oligonucleotide synthesis service out of the Murdoch University campus in Western Australia. The company operates a large facility in Technology Park Bentley to manufacture high quality oligonucleotides for the Australian and New Zealand market, and international customers.

In early 2021, MTPConnect Directors of Stakeholder Engagement (for Western Australia and New South Wales, respectively), Dr Tracey Wilkinson and Dr Duncan Macinnis organised an introduction between the two organisations, having recognised synergies in their activities.

"When I heard about SynGenis, it seemed like a great fit for SpeeDx – their values and commercial needs aligned," Dr Macinnis said. "The success of their collaboration is indicative of the many opportunities that the MTP sector has to connect stakeholders across all geographical and interest areas, building our industries' expertise and capability as 'Team Australia'."

Within five days of MTPConnect setting up the first introductory meeting, SynGenis had sent SpeeDx a shipment of oligos for a supplier assessment – a record supply time! This initial partnership allowed SpeeDx to meet an obligation to a large overseas customer and set the foundation for a longer-term collaboration.

Dr Wilkinson believes that the pandemic has reaffirmed the importance and value of MTPConnect's nation-wide team in assisting collaboration and commercialisation efforts across the sector, regardless of geographic distance.

"This successful partnership is a great illustration of how combining our on-the-ground awareness and local knowledge of the sector within MTPConnect's national team can identify opportunities for collaboration. Without strong communication and strategic connections across the country, the sector risks missing opportunities like this – opportunities that then head overseas, which is not ideal for suppliers, customers, patients, or the economy and jobs," Dr Wilkinson said.

The ability to solve domestic challenges with domestic solutions has proven to be an effective way to combat supply resilience issues and enable potential expansion in domestic and international markets in the future. SynGenis and SpeeDx are both excited to see where those future opportunities take them, after SpeeDx announced an investment in SynGenis in October.

What started as an exploratory introduction between two companies has led to a financial investment that will support the expansion of SynGenis to provide reliable, high quality large-scale oligos and bolster the capacity of SpeeDx to support large-scale increases in manufacturing.

"Moving forward, it's exciting to be increasing local capacity at a time when we really had no local options. Having our two companies aligned means we can better respond to Australian and international commercial demands," Mr Lin said.

"It is an absolute pleasure that we have this partnership now, which is based in Australia, and manufactured in Australia, and supplied in Australia," said SynGenis Founder and Managing Director Associate Professor Veedu.

MTPConnect's matchmaking means SpeeDx and Syngenis can now develop and expand the sovereign capacity of important raw materials used in molecular diagnostics and also expand efforts in the global diagnostic market.

NB: SpeeDx is also a BTB program Round 1 recipient, seeking to commercialise its ResistancePlus® MABSC/MAC test – a rapid in vitro diagnostic tool to accurately and quickly identify bacterial infections related to cystic fibrosis, while using gene markers to predict antibiotic susceptibility or resistance.

For more information, visit www.plexpcr.com and www.syngenis.com

Objective 2 Improving Management and Workforce Skills

Team Activities

Early in FY2021, MTPConnect commenced a research project to better understand the MTP sector's workforce needs and skills gaps. Our Senior Director for Stakeholder Engagement, Dr Rebecca Tunstall, led a cross-industry project team including AusBiotech, ANDHealth, MTAA and Medicines Australia to develop and deploy an online survey of human resource professionals and managers with hiring responsibilities in the sector. The survey was prepared in collaboration with BehaviourWorks Australia, a research enterprise within the Monash Sustainable Development Institute. The resulting report, '*A Survey of Workforce Skills and Capacity in the Medical Technology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical and Digital Health (MTP) Sector*', was released on 15 October 2020.

This report identified current, emerging and future skills gaps that need to be addressed in order to drive employment and growth in the Australian MTP sector, including:

- business skills and commercial expertise
- regulation and quality
- clinical (including trials)
- biological sciences and technologies
- informatics, computation, mathematical and statistics
- chemical science

MTPConnect was awarded the REDI grant in Q4 FY2020. As this initiative progressed, it was able to utilise the survey results which have been incorporated into the broader REDI skills gap analysis.

Industry Experience for Interns

MTPConnect welcomed Dr Meghana Kulkarni for a two-month internship as Associate Project Manager working across the BTB and TTRA programs, based in Melbourne. Dr Kulkarni recently completed a Masters of Biomedical and Health Sciences at Monash University, researching breast cancer organoid technology. Following the completion of her internship, she secured a role as Project Manager with the AAMRNet in Q1 FY2022.

Leveraged Funding

BTB – BridgeTech Symposium for 2021 Cohort Held in Melbourne
BTB supports the Bridge and BridgeTech programs and utilises the courses for commercialisation training for up to 20 BTB awardees each year.

The 2020 and 2021 BridgeTech participants attended a three-day symposium in Q4 FY2021 which featured in-depth seminars and real-world case studies, as well as pitching and collaboration activities with industry leaders from around the world. MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant delivered the opening speech welcoming the delegates, while REDI Director Jarrod Belcher spoke at a session on improving collaboration between research and industry to boost translation and commercialisation skills and the importance of 'industry' work experience.

Pictured: MTPConnect's Jarrod Belcher, REDI Director, at the BridgeTech Symposium

REDI – Addressing Skills Gaps

As detailed elsewhere in this report, REDI has produced three skills gaps assessments and reports, the findings of which have supported requests for proposals for skills gap training programs. Four new partners were selected in FY2021 and deployment of training programs has commenced.

REDI now has 13 industry partners, delivering 31 training programs with over 2215 targeted recipients in FY2021.

Growth Centre Project Fund – TRI Cleanroom Upgrade

The Growth Centre Project fund supported the upgrade of the Translational Research Institute's (TRI) cleanroom manufacturing facility and training hub in Brisbane. The facility provides clean room facilities for companies to manufacture small batches of medtech or biotech products for early-stage clinical trials and is building advanced manufacturing capability in Australia.

Our Managing Director and CEO, Dr Dan Grant, joined virtually with the Hon. Karen Andrews MP, the then Minister for Industry, Science and Technology and Vaxxas CEO David Hoey for the official opening of the facility in October 2020.

Following the launch, the inaugural MTPCareers Symposium was held, sponsored by MTPConnect, SeerPharma, Vaxxas and Therapeutic Innovation Australia, and featuring a keynote presentation by MTPConnect's Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Queensland, Andrew Bowskill.

The facility is now at capacity and is looking for additional premises to expand the cleanrooms.

TRI is not only providing manufacturing capability but through the success of Vaxxas, is demonstrating the translation of discoveries into clinical trials. Since utilising the cleanroom upgrade, Vaxxas has received $8 million from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to continue their measles rubella vaccination platform, an $18 million equity buy in from Merck to progress three vaccines into the vaccination platform and secured a $25 million funded program with the US government. All manufacturing of small-scale early-stage clinical trial material, requiring current Good Manufacturing Practice (cGMP) compliance is expected to occur in the upgraded TRI cleanrooms.

The project has also enabled research staff at TRI to gain early access to clinical manufacturing capabilities and to experience one of the first hands-on training offerings in a production-capable cGMP-compliant facility, embedded in a research institute.

Case Study: Upgrade of the CSIRO (Clayton) protein production platform to human GMP capability

MTPConnect awarded $1.1 million from the Growth Centre Project Fund to the CSIRO for equipment and training to fit out the newly expanded Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) grade protein production plant. The required equipment has been purchased and installed in a separate facility to allow staff to undergo training ensuring compliance with cGMP regulations – and new equipment to be utilised and tested prior to installation in the new facility. To date, CSIRO has spent a total of $3.8 million on the equipment, regulatory design and training, including over $860,000 of industry funds and $990,000 of Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF) grants. The CSIRO team has been engaging with SMEs and large companies and manufacturers throughout Australia to determine their needs and raise their awareness of this onshore faculty.

The facility is nearing completion but has been slightly delayed due to the most recent COVID-19 lockdown restrictions in Melbourne. Once the facility is completed, the equipment will be transferred, installed and tested. Production will then commence, with the final milestone of the project being full TGA GMP licensing to allow human cells to be manufactured.

For more information, visit https://www.csiro.au/en/research/production/biotechnology/Protein-Production-Facility

Pictured (L-R): The Ab Initio Team: Darren Zhao, Marcus Chan, Vi Tran Lam Tuong, Jing Xing Mo, Hui Xing Ong (YY), Paul Young, Dina Silva and Daniela Traini.

ab initio pharma

Case Study: Ab Initio – Formulation R&D and GMP product manufacturing services for clinical trials in Australia

Ab Initio Pharma is a formulation R&D and manufacturing company established as a spinoff by The University of Sydney in partnership with Sydney Local Health District and membership body ARCS Australia. The company will provide innovators across Australia with a flexible platform to rapidly translate bench-top discoveries to clinical trial products and fully fledged commercial pharmaceuticals.

The project was awarded a $500,000 Growth Centre Project Fund grant, initially matched with $700,000 from Ab Initio. However; profits from Ab Initio's work to date are also being used to purchase additional equipment for the facility.

The Ab Initio Pharma manufacturing facility's purpose is to produce small-batch quantities of pharmaceutical products under a GMP environment that can be used in early-phase clinical trials by the medical technology and academic sectors. The company also has R&D facilities and will be able to offer its partners formulation services to develop products suitable for clinical trials. Currently, many SMEs and researchers working in drug development do not have access to suitable facilities in Australia and this new facility will help meet those unmet needs.

The legal entity, Ab Initio Pharma, has been incorporated and agreements have been signed between the relevant parties. It has secured a manufacturing site at the Professor Marie Bahir Centre in Camperdown, Sydney and construction of the facility was completed in October 2021.

For more information, visit www.ab-initio-pharma.com

Objective 3 Optimising Regulatory and Policy Environment

Team Activities

In October 2020, a second edition of the ***MTPConnect COVID-19 Impact Report*** was published, including additional data and new insights since May 2020. The new report also explored strategies to spur recovery and discussed trends and opportunities for growth. The report makes it clear that the MTP sector has a critical and ongoing role to play in pandemic response, future preparedness and economic recovery.

The pilot implementation of the Australasian Tele-Trial Model, supported by the GC Project Fund and run by the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) concluded this year. The project engaged widely with stakeholders through the steering committee, advisory groups and sponsors, clinicians, sites and regulatory authorities. The Tele-Trial Model was presented at major cancer and clinical trial conferences and featured in a supplement to the Asia-Pacific Journal of Clinical Oncology. The results from the project were used to support an MRFF grant application under the Rural, Regional and Remote Clinical Trial Enabling Infrastructure program. This was one of three tele-trial grants announced in the October 2020 federal Budget and will allow the model to be rolled-out for clinical trials in all diseases (not just cancer). The Tele-Trial Model project is another example of how MTPConnect is supporting the growth of Australia's clinical trials sector, a key component of the pre-production phase of advanced medical products manufacturing – one of the six national manufacturing priorities identified in the MMS. For more information on this project see the case study on page 50.

The Regenerative Medicine Catalyst Body, supported by the GC Project fund, and established through an AusBiotech-led consortium, worked on five projects to determine the workforce, facility, regulatory and policy needs of this emerging sector and how it can be best supported to unlock the potential of Australia's regenerative medicine sector.

MTPConnect also sponsored the MTAA's Cyber Security Forum, where our Managing Director and CEO, Dr Dan Grant, delivered a keynote address promoting awareness about the cyber security issues affecting the health and medical research sector. The presentation is available on *The MTPConnect podcast*.

MTPConnect released the *'Adaptive Regulation for Digital Health'* report in February 2021. The report examines how digital health industry stakeholders are engaging with the Australian TGA regulatory framework, using case studies to highlight the rapid and diverse development pathways for digital medical devices in Australia. With new TGA rules around the regulation of software-based medical devices coming into effect in February 2021, the report provides timely and critical reading for start-ups and innovators developing digital health technologies.

Pictured: Top L–R MTPConnect Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Queensland Andrew Bowskill and The University of Queensland's Dr Lisette Pregelj. Middle L–R Cardihab's Helen Souris and CSIRO's Dr Rob Grenfell. Bottom L–R ANDHealth's Bronwyn Le Grice and TGA's Tracey Duffy online during the March seminar series event.

Building on sector interest in the report, our March seminar series event brought together leading stakeholders to explore "Adaptive regulation for digital healthtech – a pathway for industry". Important insights were shared by the TGA's Tracey Duffy, The University of Queensland's Dr Lisette Pregelj, ANDHealth's Bronwyn Le Grice, CSIRO's Dr Rob Grenfell and Cardihab's Helen Souris. The session is available on our website as an on demand video and as a podcast episode.

MTPConnect supported the medicinal cannabis industry premier conference. Senior Director of Stakeholder Engagement Dr Rebecca Tunstall and Director of Stakeholder Engagement for New South Wales Dr Duncan Macinnis joined Medicinal Cannabis Industry Australia (MCIA) Chair Peter Crock and Epilepsy Action Australia's National Service Manager Lisa Todd for the ACannabis EVOLVE Conference to talk about the opportunities and roadblocks for the growing industry. A report examining the size, potential and challenges for Australia's medicinal cannabis industry has been prepared by MTPConnect and was launched in October 2021.

In April 2021, Dr Dan Grant, on behalf of MTPConnect and AAMRNet, a Growth Centre Project Fund project, appeared before a parliamentary inquiry to highlight the challenges posed to human health by increasing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and the lack of new antimicrobials coming through the research and development pipeline. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Health, Aged Care and Sport is inquiring into the approval processes for new drugs and novel medical technologies in Australia. Read more on the submission which called AMR 'today's silent pandemic'.

The Industry Genomics Network Alliance (InGeNA) published the ***InGeNA Strategic Plan*** highlighting the breadth and range of industry groups committed to working together to bring a shared perspective on critically important areas underpinning the future of genomics. The alliance, hosted by the Australasian Institute of Digital Health, was established in 2020 with funding through MTPConnect's Industry Growth Centre Project Fund program. Following COVID-19 restrictions, the institutes HealthData21 conference scheduled for May 2021 had to be rescheduled. Dr Dan Grant's presentation about InGeNA was made at the 'Integrating Genomics into Care' session on 22 June 2021. Download the InGeNA Strategic Plan here.

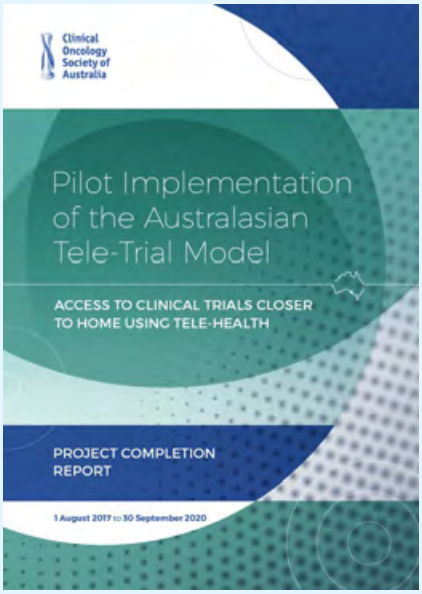
In June 2021, MTPConnect launched a discussion paper – ***Drug Repurposing: Building the Path to Australian Success*** – that explores the drug repurposing landscape in Australia and what it will take to deliver more repurposed drugs in ways that improve people's health.

Drug repurposing has the potential to provide Australian patients with greater access to medicines that have already been proven to be safe and cost-effective for other conditions. It is also an opportunity for Australian industry to grow new consumer markets and the report shows how Australia can participate more vigorously in this evolving activity.

Interest in drug repurposing has been rising for several years, yet there are barriers that impose high costs and create disincentives. Understanding the challenges, and the options to encourage drug repurposing, is key to improving Australia's repurposing efforts and improving consumer access to new medicines. The report can be downloaded here.

MTPConnect was invited by the TGA to present the report's findings at a departmental meeting with representatives from peak industry groups, pharmaceutical companies, patient groups and medical professionals in Sydney in May 2021. MTPConnect's Andrew Bowskill, co-chair of AAMRNet, attended.

Case Study: COSA Pilot Tele-Trial Model Boosts Rural Patient Access



Access to clinical trials for people diagnosed with cancer is a core component of providing optimal cancer care through specialist cancer centres, hospitals and other treatment facilities. Patients living outside of major metropolitan centres face many barriers in accessing clinical trials.

The Clinical Oncology Society of Australia (COSA) has released a report on completion of a successful project to pilot the implementation of the Australasian Tele-Trial Model, helping to increase access to clinical trials closer to home, while at the same time ensuring the proper conduct of cancer clinical trials.

The three-year project, funded through MTPConnect's Growth Centre Project Fund program, set out to facilitate the adoption of the Tele-Trial Model nationally through engagement with government, regulatory bodies, hospitals, and insurers to drive regulatory reform and adopt the Tele-Trial Model as standard practice.

COSA CEO Marie Malica thanked project co-chairs, Professors Sabe Sabesan and professor John Zalcberg for their leadership and guidance, and Project Manager Chantal Gebbie.

"The success of the pilot project was largely due to the extraordinary efforts and collaboration of multiple stakeholders across sites, investigators, industry, collaborative groups and government departments as well as the support of MTPConnect, and the leadership of the funding consortium.

"With the recent award by the federal government of grants totalling $125 million to improve access to clinical trials for regional and rural Australians, $75.2 million of which is exclusively for the continued development of tele-trials nationally, COSA's work will now focus on advocacy, assisting with stakeholder engagement and we will continue to offer our expertise as needed," Ms Malica said.

At project commencement there were no tele-trials open in Australia. There are now 10 tele-trials open to recruitment nationally, a further three closed to recruitment and nine more tele-trials pending. Twenty-four sites have participated in tele-trials, 16 of which have been in regional or rural areas. Four of these sites had never previously opened a clinical trial. During the course of this MTPConnect-supported project, 150 patients enrolled in tele-trials, with 135 of these patients living in regional and rural areas. Twelve clinicians received Good Clinical Practice (GCP) training in clinical trials for the first time.

Tele-trials will now have the necessary funding, infrastructure and government support to become mainstream in Australia and provide access to clinical trials for hundreds of patients throughout the country for trials in all diseases, not just cancer. This additional capability will strengthen Australia's international reputation as a 'go-to' destination for conducting clinical trials and assist in securing new business opportunities.

Read the full report on the COSA website.

Objective 4 Improving Access to Global Supply Chains and Markets

Team Activities

In July, MTPConnect's Managing Director and CEO, Dr Grant, presented at the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine (EAPM) global conference. Dr Grant presented the closing session entitled 'Grasping the chance: transforming healthcare through public-private cooperation' where he discussed precision medicine in Australia and the opportunities presented by MRFF-funded programs, including BMTH and BTB.

Ensuring a strong Australian presence at the 2020 Virtual MedTech Conference was a key activity during Q1. As the largest global conference for the medical technology sector, the Virtual MedTech Conference was a unique platform that allowed Australian companies to showcase their skills and expertise to the world, and build their international connections and markets, even though we were in pandemic lockdown. As a key sponsor of the event, MTPConnect worked with Austrade to create and brand a virtual Australian pavilion. We leveraged our sponsorship to offer companies cost effective participation in the pavilion, including a subsidised registration rate.

21 Australian companies and organisations joined the Australian delegation and participated in the virtual pavilion:

- 4D Medical
- Anatomics
- ANDHealth
- Artrya
- AusBiotech
- Australian Cardiovascular Alliance
- BARD1 Life Sciences
- Cyban
- Design and Industry
- Envision IT
- Genesys Electronics Design
- IDE Group
- Inventia Life Sciences
- LBT Innovations
- Medical Technology Association of Australia
- Noisy Guts
- Perx Health
- Planet Innovation
- Seer Medical
- SpeeDx
- WearOptimo

To coincide with the international event, we organised a special event webinar to promote Australia to Canadian and U.S. medical device companies as a clinical trial destination for cardiac medical devices. The event was opened by Australia's then Consul General and Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, the Hon Peter McGauran, and featured presentations by MTPConnect and insights from the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute and BIOTRONIK Australia. The event is available as an on-demand video and as episode 78 of The MTPConnect Podcast series.

MTPConnect and AAMRNet joined 60 Australian companies as part of the Team Australia digital pavilion at BIO Digital 21 in June 2021.

We also supported Austrade's efforts to organise the Australian mission to BIO KOREA 2021, again with a virtual Australian pavilion. MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant delivered a presentation – 'Australian Industry Trends and Opportunities/R&D Ecosystem' – at the Australia Korea Global Open Innovation Forum for Pharmaceutical Industry. The forum focused on cooperation strategy between Korean and Australian pharmaceutical industries and several Australian companies were profiled at the event.

During Q2, the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology announced that funding was available for medical products manufacturing under the Modern Manufacturing Initiative (MMI) in two streams – translation and integration. In March, the $30 million Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre (AMGC) Commercialisation Fund was launched to support projects within the Australian Government's six national manufacturing priorities – including medical products.

Pictured: Mr Nick Purtell, General Manager, Industry Engagement Branch, in the Manufacturing Division of the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources joined the MTPConnect Podcast to discuss the Modern Manufacturing Initiative and the Medical Products road map.

MTPConnect, along with other Industry Growth Centres and CSIRO, supported the fund and actively promoted the opportunity, including two podcast episodes. The first was an interview with Dr Dan Grant on the Grant Thornton podcast series '*Navigating the New Normal*' and for the second, MTPConnect interviewed Nick Purtell, General Manager, Industry Engagement Branch, in the Manufacturing Division of DISER. Mr Purtell provided information on applying for the MMI funding currently available in the two streams – translation and integration. Listen to the podcast here.

Nine MTP sector companies were announced as successful in being offered funding through the Manufacturing Modernisation Fund, with three of these having received prior funding and project management support from MTPConnect through the BMTH and BTB programs. MTP sector funded companies were:

- Atmo Biosciences (BMTH)
- WearOptimo (BMTH)
- SpeeDx (BTB)
- Kico Knee (360 Med Care)
- Medipharm
- Micro-X
- SCHOTT Minifab
- Race Dental
- Tresmine (Circuitwise)

Within the MMI integration and translation streams, MTPConnect engaged with 19 companies prior to their application. The results of these were announced on 8 July 2021. Three of the five successful companies were those who engaged directly with MTPConnect prior to their application submission. The grants awarded to these three companies totalled $13.7 million:

- Perth-based Avicena Systems: $3 million to help scale-up manufacturing of its Sentinel COVID-19 screening system which can be used to rapidly test more than 90,000 people per day
- Vaxxas in Queensland: $4.4 million to ramp-up production of its world-leading patch vaccination device that is worn on the skin like a band-aid to deliver vaccines into the bloodstream
- GBS (APAC) in New South Wales: $6.3 million to build a new medical device manufacturing facility to enable the commercialisation of technology for diagnostic tests.

The other two successful companies were Noumed Pharmaceuticals (South Australia) and Cyclowest in Western Australia.

MTP Sector Performance and Vision

MTP Sector Performance

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, including 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. Each participant has a critical role to play in the sector's growth and success.

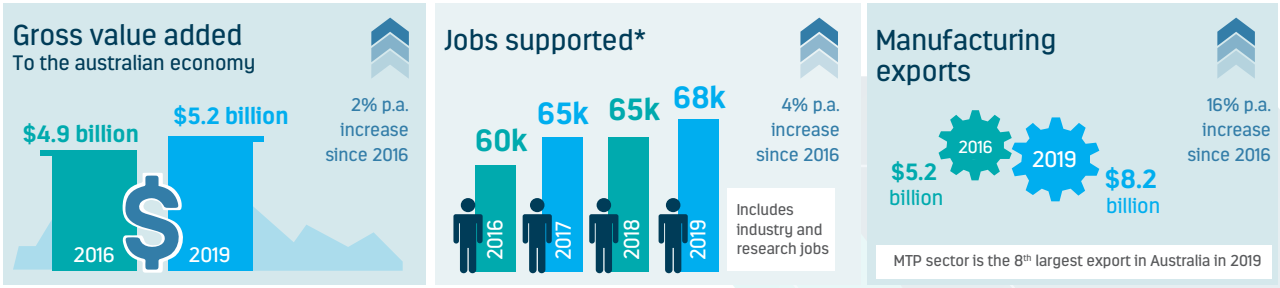
MTP Sector Performance Since 2015

MTPConnect's 2020 Sector Competitiveness Plan (SCP) and other sector reports provide updates on the MTP sector's Knowledge Priorities, Sector Growth Priorities and regulation reform agenda.

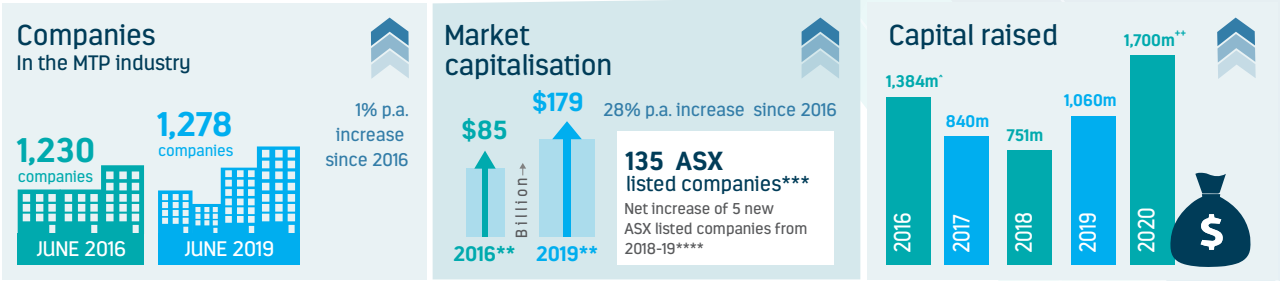
The SCP documented robust growth across many key metrics for the reporting period, including GVA, which had grown steadily at two percent per annum. since 2016, and manufacturing exports, which had grown 16 percent per annum. since 2016 to be worth $8.2 billion, making the MTP sector the eighth largest export segment in Australia.

MTP Sector Progress to 31 December 2020

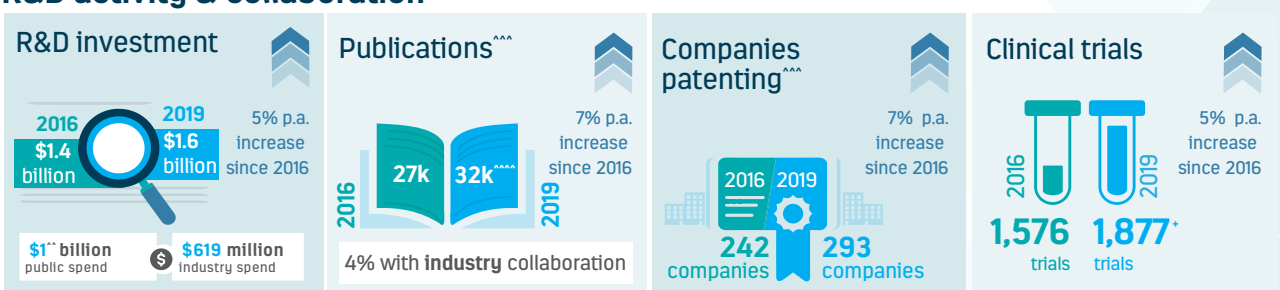
Economic footprint



Commercial activity



R&D activity & collaboration



Notes: * Due to the volatile nature of quarterly employment metrics, the industry job portion of the presented figures is calculated as a rolling 2-year average of the quarterly data. In the 2019 SCP, industry jobs was calculated as an annual average.
** 2016 market cap as at 2016, 2019 market cap as at November 2019.
*** The definition of ASX-listed MTP companies was broadened in the 2018 analysis to include medical software / digital health companies whose products are not necessarily regulated by the TGA.
**** 2018 figure for ASX listed companies adjusted from 135 to 130 for the 5 companies that were de-listed during the year.
^ Capital raised in 2016 was artificially high due to a $888 million capital raise by Mayne Pharma.
^^ Public spend analysis comprises grants made by ARC, NHMRC, BTF and MRFF; NHMRC and ARC (announced before August 2018) grant funding per year assumes grant funding distributed equally in each year of the grant; ARC funding estimates for grants announced after August 2018 assume a) the duration of each of these grants is the average duration of a grant of equivalent type (e.g., Linkage Project, Discovery Project) over the period from January 2016 to August 2018, and b) grant funding is distributed equally across each year of the assumed grant duration; MRFF funding is FY2019 committed funding per 2018-20 Priorities Discussion Paper; BTF funding assumes increase between previous announcement and current grant funding occurred in 2019.
^^^ Data provided by Clarivate Analytics.
^^^^ There were an additional 79 reporting organisations whose publications output was included in the data from 2017 onwards.
+ Data from MTPConnect: Australia's Clinical Trials Sector Report 2021
++ Data from Bioshares, Edition 875, 6 Jan 2021, page 3.

The Impact of COVID-19 on MTP Sector Progress

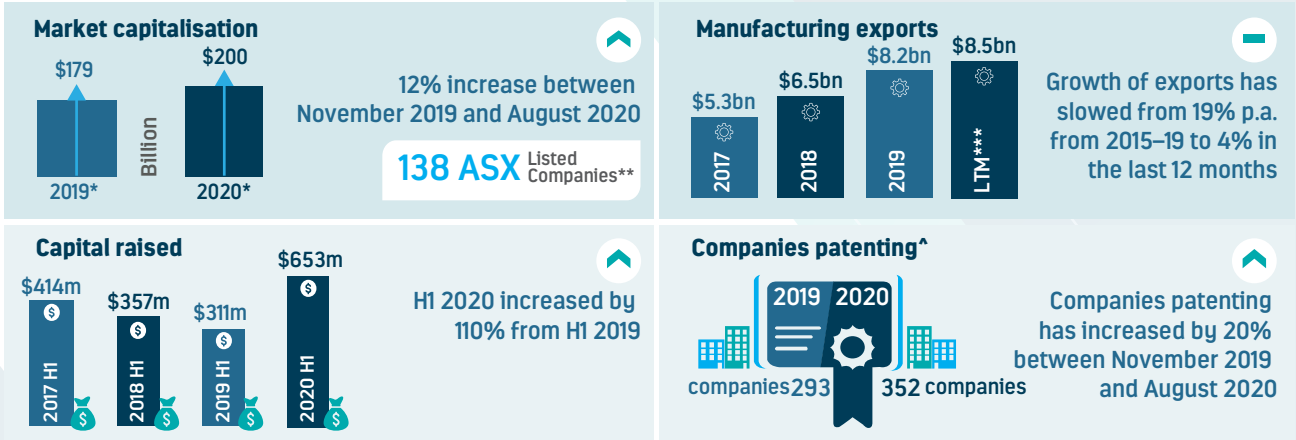
Both 2020 and 2021 have been dominated by the emergence of the COVID-19 global public health emergency. With participants in the MTP sector on the frontline for research, diagnosis, management, prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, MTPConnect leveraged its expertise and extensive industry networks to play a critical role in supporting Australia's response to COVID-19, including deploying a fast-tracked round of the BTB program to specifically target COVID-19 projects (medical devices, diagnostics, prophylactic or therapeutic approaches) that could achieve an impact in less than 12-months.

MTPConnect partnered with L.E.K. Consulting to interview senior sector leaders to understand the burden of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, with results published in two COVID-19 Impact reports, launched in June and October 2020. These reports found that in the first eight months of 2020, performance against the key metrics of manufacturing exports, market capitalisation of ASX-listed companies and capital raised continued to follow the upward trajectory identified in the 2020 SCP.

Manufacturing exports grew to be worth $8.5 billion in 2020, up from $8.2 billion at the end of 2019, while MTP companies were able to raise much-needed liquidity to strengthen their balance sheets, taking advantage of positive investor sentiment towards the sector during the pandemic, with $653 million of capital raised by listed MTP companies in the first half of 2020, an increase of 110 percent from H1 2019. Capital raised for CY2020 was $1.7 billion.

The number of companies patenting rose 20 per cent between November 2019 and August 2020, likely due to efforts to find products and solutions in response to COVID-19.

Sector Competitiveness Metrics



Notes: * 2020 market cap as at 31 August 2020, 2019 market cap as at 30 November 2019.
** The list of ASX-listed MTP companies was updated to reflect five new listings, one new inclusion to the MTP sector list and three de-listed since November 2019.
*** LTM is the last 12 months to June 2020.
^ Data provided by Clarivate Analytics.
Source: Thomson Reuters, ABS, Bioshares, Clarivate, L.E.K. analysis

More information about MTP sector performance can be found in the 2020 SCP and 2nd COVID-19 Impact Report.

Megatrends and Knowledge Priorities

The Australian MTP sector has the potential to significantly contribute to improving patient outcomes and also be a key driver of economic and jobs growth over the next 10 to 20 years. Technological developments and shifts in consumer behaviour are creating exciting opportunities within the MTP sector. These include genomics, gene editing, big data and analytics, while the ability to develop products and services tailored to individuals/groups of consumers with digital connectivity and integration is becoming increasingly feasible, alongside a rise in consumer awareness of overall health and wellbeing.

The MTP sector's ability to respond to megatrends is also important, as has been highlighted in Australia's responses to the global biosecurity challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and will play a key role in establishing sovereign capabilities, resilient supply chains and in defining our economic and job creation path out of COVID-19.

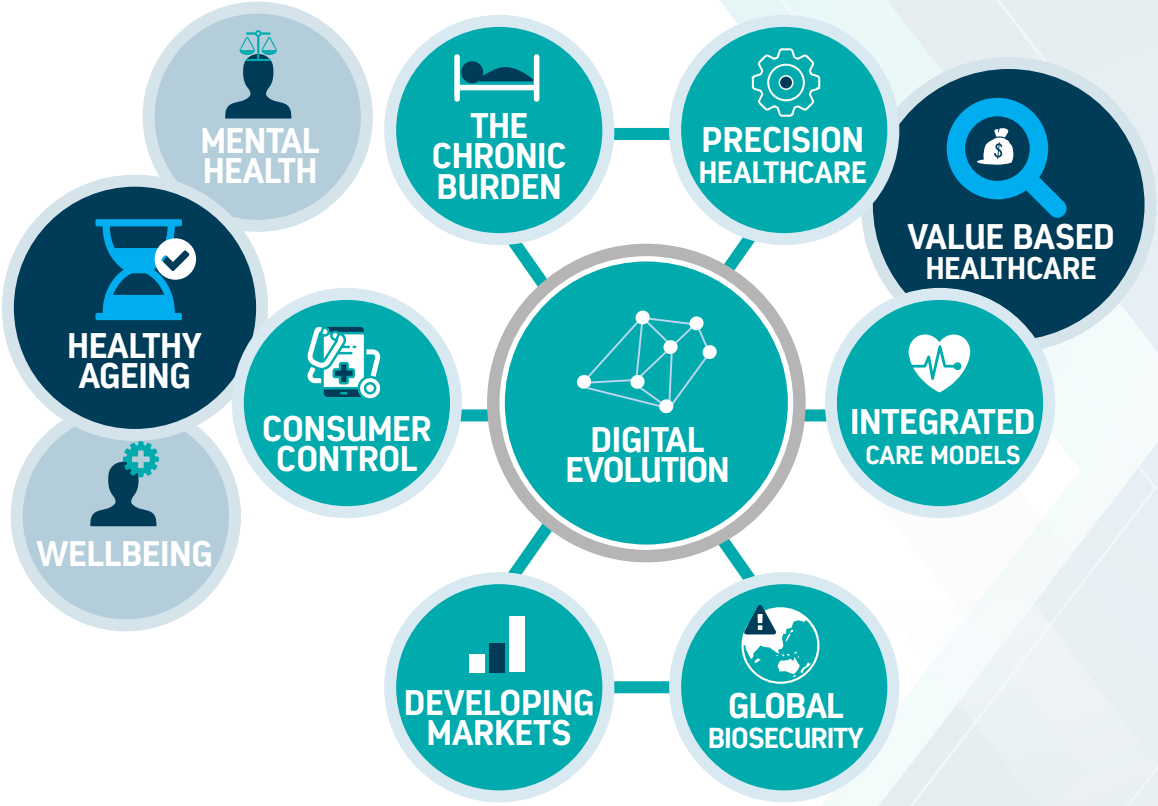
These megatrends, knowledge and sector priorities, as detailed in the 2020 SCP, are shaping how Australia can build long-term, world-class positions in targeted areas of research and development, where patient outcomes can be realised, and opportunities exist for strong commercial returns.

Emerging Megatrends

Megatrends are the overarching social, economic, environmental, technological and geopolitical forces that will shape the future of industries. They are often disruptive; they change existing business models and present opportunities and challenges for organisations. By nature, they are forward-looking and, as a result, the list of megatrends does not vary significantly from year to year; rather they evolve gradually.

Digital evolution is central as an enabler and disrupter for all other megatrends. Mental health and wellbeing, while not megatrends, are highlighted as underlying drivers in the chronic burden and consumer control megatrends respectively, contributing to pressure on the sustainability of healthcare delivery. It is acknowledged that, over time, the manifestations of climate variability (higher temperatures, altered rainfall patterns and more frequent or intense extreme events) will influence many of these megatrends, including global biosecurity, healthy ageing and wellbeing, developing markets and the chronic burden and will need to be considered as part of strategic planning and operational activities.

Megatrends identified in MTPConnect's 2020 SCP



The Global Biosecurity Megatrend and COVID-19

As we have seen, the MTP sector is critical for responses to pandemics and global biosecurity threats. Many Australian researchers, start-ups and SMEs are working in vaccine design and manufacture, diagnostics and imaging, bioprocessing technologies, ventilation technology, telemedicine, infection control and protection and immune system-directed therapies. Industry input into federal government taskforces has been integral to securing essential supplies of ventilators, testing kits and other personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies required by the healthcare system. Australia's medical device sector is uniquely placed to inform and deliver a sovereign manufacturing capability and robust supply chains as part of future pandemic planning.

MTPConnect's role in supporting Australia's response to COVID-19 included close involvement in the federal government taskforces and working groups and state interagency COVID-19 committees, as well as membership of the CSIRO Health and Biosecurity Advisory Group and the DMTC Medical Countermeasures Stakeholder Group and deployment of funding through the BTB COVID-19 round.

Knowledge Priorities

SCIENCE AREAS	THERAPEUTIC AREAS	DEVICE/ DIAGNOSTIC	SKILLS & CAPABILITIES	OTHER EXISTING NATIONAL PRIORITIES
Current				
• Biochemistry and cell biology (including synthetic biology) • Psychology and cognitive sciences • Genetics and precision medicine • Microbiology • Immunology • Paediatrics and reproductive medicine	• Oncology • Infectious disease (including antimicrobial resistance) • Neurosciences and neurology • Cardiac and cardiovascular systems • Diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism • Respiratory disorders (e.g. asthma) • Arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions • Aged and palliative care • Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health	• Diagnostic device – POC /lab • Surgical devices and consumables • Implantables (including 3D-printed custom devices and bionics) • Wearable devices • Digital health and monitoring	• Certain skills/capabilities have been identified through prior work, including advanced manufacturing, clinical trials expertise and big data analytics. • MTPConnect will complete a 'root and branch' skills audit of the MTP sector as part of the MTP REDI initiative sector participants to identify skills gaps within these KPs	• Drug repurposing • Biosecurity • Data science • Rare diseases
Emerging				
• Human movement and sports science • Medical physiology • Medical biotechnology • Nanotechnology	• Regenerative medicine • Optometry and ophthalmology • Pain management • Dematologicals			

MTPConnect has identified a suite of Knowledge Priorities, or areas where there is a high level of unmet need globally and where Australia is, or has the potential to be, a leading contributor, to provide strategic focus to the sector's activities for FY2020 and beyond. As shown in the diagram above, six areas of science, nine therapeutic areas, five device/diagnostic areas and four other existing national priorities have been identified as Current Knowledge Priorities, while nine areas have also been identified as Emerging Knowledge Priorities. As a result of COVID-19, we will see new priorities emerging, with an emphasis on building sovereign capabilities and supply chain resilience, advanced manufacturing, vaccines and diagnostics.

FY2021 Year in Review

FY2021 – Year in Review

July 2020

Pictured: Top L–R Platypus Technical's Principal and Director Dr Lee Walsh, MTPConnect's Managing Director and CEO Dr Dan Grant, Catapult Sports' former Chief Technology Officer Rick Wingfield. Bottom L–R MTPConnect's former Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Western Australia Dr Kate Brooks and The University of Western Australia's Associate Professor Jacqueline Alderson online in the July webinar.

New funding for the MTP Sector

MTPConnect announced that 21 new promising medical technology research projects funding of $18.8 million through Round 3 of the BMTH program, with $21.3 million in committed additional industry contributions.

TTRA initiative announced

In another major boost for research commercialisation, we announced that MTPConnect will operate the $47 million TTRA initiative for diabetes and cardiovascular disease to advance research into preventing, diagnosing and treating these conditions which affect the lives of millions of Australians.

MTPConnect's July webinar

We held another of our 'seminar series' webinars, 'Frontiers of Biomechanics and Human Movement' featuring panellists from around Australia including Catapult Sports, Platypus Technical and UWA discussing the latest developments and challenges with wearable sensors, big data and digital innovations for rehabilitation, injury prevention and sporting performance. It's an area identified as an emerging Knowledge Priority in our 2020 Sector Competitiveness Plan. The webinar features in The MTPConnect Podcast series.

Sector supported events

We partnered with Life Sciences Queensland and the Queensland Government's Department of State Development, Tourism and Innovation (as it was then known) for a regulatory webinar on 21 July 2020, where our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Queensland Andrew Bowskill presented.

We also partnered with the Australian Research Council for a seminar on medical research policy on 20 July 2020, where our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for New South Wales Dr Duncan Macinnis presented.

PRAXIS Australia continued its 'Building Resilience in Times of COVID-19' webinars series in July, supported by MTPConnect.

A Blog about the path to drug discovery

Our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for New South Wales Dr Duncan Macinnis shared his insights in a blog about his partnership with the University of Sydney in developing its Drug Discovery Initiative. Read more about it here.

August 2020

Pictured: Top L–R Dharmica Mistry, Cicada Innovations, and Scott Taylor, Perx Health. Middle L–R Elisabeth Yunarko, Spokle, and Kath Hamilton, Loop+. Bottom L–R Dr Duncan Macinnis, MTPConnect, and Silvia Pfeiffer, Coviu, presenting at Cicada Innovations's August Monthly Buzz.

MTPConnect Chair appointed to key government COVID-19 advisory group

The Prime Minister, Hon. Scott Morrison MP announced the formation of a COVID-19 Vaccines and Treatments for Australia – Science and Industry Technical Advisory Group. Our Chair, Sue MacLeman, was appointed to the group of medical and industry experts, which provides advice to the Australian Government on the purchasing and manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

Announcing the new Guest of the Chair

MTPConnect was delighted to announce that Dr Emma Ball was selected from a strong field of candidates as our second Guest of the Chair. Dr Ball, the then Director of Strategy and Business Development and Head of Search and Evaluation for CSL Limited, would attend MTPConnect Board meetings over the next 12 months, engaging with our Chair, directors and senior management.

APR.Intern joins REDI

MTPConnect announced that APR.Intern, Australia's only national PhD internship program, joined the REDI initiative as a partner. REDI helped APR.Intern fund 20 new MTP industry placements for PhD researchers for the remainder of 2020.

Sector supported events

MTPConnect supported Cicada Innovations' August Monthly Buzz event which featured digital health founders and their stories. We also continued support for PRAXIS Australia's COVID-19 clinical trial webinar series. In Western Australia, we sponsored The University of Western Australia's Quantitative Imaging Workshop in Perth.

September 2020

BTB awards $10.4 million to 13 research projects

MTPConnect awarded funding of $10.4 million to 13 early-stage biomedical projects, through the second and third rounds of the BTB program. Five of these new projects are tackling COVID-19, including a vaccine candidate being developed in South Australia, a new treatment for respiratory complications of COVID-19 selected for a global World Health Organization-endorsed clinical study; a preventive nasal spray developed from an approved antiviral, a rapid response test to predict severity of disease progression and an isolation hood to better care for COVID-19 patients and protect healthcare staff. Another eight selected projects commenced research into treatments and diagnostics for conditions such as muscular dystrophy, breast cancer, metabolic and fibrotic disease, prostate cancer, ataxia, antimicrobial resistance and the Zika virus

MTPConnect launches AMR network and superbugs report

MTPConnect announced the formation of the Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network – AAMRNet – and released a new report, *'Fighting Superbugs: A Report on the Inaugural Meeting of Australia's Antimicrobial Resistance Stakeholders'.* The announcements were made at an industry roundtable launch event, timed to coincide with the anniversary of the birth date of Adelaide-born Sir Howard Florey who shared the Nobel Prize in 1945 for his role in the development of penicillin.

MDPP rolls out first online capability directory

MTPConnect welcomed the launch of MDPP's first online capability directory that details more than 2,650 Australian organisations relevant to the medical device industry. In a boost to whole-of-sector collaboration, the initiative is supported by MTPConnect through the GC Project Fund program.

REDI partners launch initiatives

We helped launch the Bridge and BridgeTech 'Industry Fellowship program', supported by our REDI initiative, where our Managing Director and CEO Dr Dan Grant presented on a panel virtually, alongside Professor Lyn Griffiths, Anand Gautam from Pfizer, Erica Kneipp from the Australian National University and Steven Kennedy from Cochlear.

We also welcomed five new IMNIS REDI mentees to be mentored through an expanded program supported by REDI funding that taps into sector growth areas, such as regenerative medicine, cell and gene therapies and digital health.

Staying connected with the MTP sector

Our 'seminar series' hosted another webinar on 'Developing Diagnostics: A different approach compared to drugs and devices', featuring expert panellists from ZiP Diagnostics, FPA Patent Attorneys and OneVentures. It is available as part of The MTPConnect Podcast series. We sponsored the 2020 Innovate Health virtual conference and the 2020 BridgeTech Virtual Symposium, while the MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub supported the WA BioInnovation Showcase.

October 2020

Pictured: Former Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the Hon Karen Andrews MP, at the opening of the cleanrooms facility at the TRI in Brisbane. Photo by Glenn Hunt Photography.

New report reveals COVID-19 recovery for MTP sector

We launched the second edition of the MTPConnect COVID-19 Impact Report series. The report showed how the sector had recovered from the May pandemic slump and highlighted opportunities for growth. It also identified actions that can be taken to better prepare for future pandemics. Read the report heare.

Virtual trip to Toronto for the 2020 MedTech Conference

We led a delegation to the Virtual MedTech Conference, showcasing the skills and capabilities of 21 Australian medtech companies and their innovations to the world. We worked with Austrade to stage a special webinar for Canadian and US medical device companies to promote Australia as a trial destination for their devices.

Adding value for our funded projects

Focusing on translation and commercialisation, our BMTH and BTB teams hosted a special virtual meeting for 62 funding recipients on what to consider when developing a global medtech commercialisation strategy. Three experts from Med2Mark shared their advice on translation of medical products with the cohorts who are developing potential new Australian products.

New TRI cleanrooms manufacturing facility launched

One project that is building manufacturing capability in Australia is the Translational Research Institute's upgraded cleanroom manufacturing facility and training hub in Brisbane, which was funded through our Industry Growth Centre Project Fund program. Our Managing Director and CEO Dr Grant joined virtually with Vaxxas CEO David Hoey and the then Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the Hon Karen Andrews MP for the official opening of the facility, which will help accelerate the translation of new medical innovations and boost workforce skills.

MTPConnect sponsors TRI's MTP Manufacturing Careers Symposium

Following the TRI's cleanroom launch, the inaugural one-day MTPCareers Symposium was held, sponsored by MTPConnect, SeerPharma, Vaxxas and Therapeutic Innovation Australia. Our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Queensland, Andrew Bowskill, presented a session about the Australian MTP sector and career opportunities.

New report unveils workforce skills

With a continued focus on employment opportunities, we released a new report: *A Survey of Workforce Skills and Capacity in the Medical Technology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical and Digital Health (MTP) Sector*. The report identifies current, emerging and future skills gaps and was prepared in collaboration with a cross-industry project team of AusBiotech, ANDHealth, MTAA and Medicines Australia, along with BehaviourWorks Australia.

October 2020 (continued)

Keynote MP session at MTAA annual conference

We supported the MTAA's MedTech20 Annual Conference, sponsoring the keynote MP Session with the then Minister for Industry, Science and Technology, the Hon Karen Andrews MP. MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant introduced the Minister who spoke about the value of Australia's medical technology sector; its contribution to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic; and its focus in the government's Modern Manufacturing Strategy.

Accelerating research in regenerative medicine

We were proud to sponsor the AusBiotech + Invest 2020 conference, where we announced the formation of a new catalyst body for regenerative medicine, a rapidly emerging field that holds much promise of better patient outcomes – and economic growth. The AusBiotech-led consortium was awarded $300,000 from MTPConnect's GC Project Fund program.

Sector supported events

MTPConnect continued to support collaboration throughout the sector with various sponsorships and virtual events. In addition to the AusBiotech + Invest 2020 conference, we sponsored the Australian Pavilion at the HLTHVRTL 2020 Conference, which included a strong delegation of companies from Western Australia, as well as Australian digital health companies competing in the Startup Showcase. We also supported the Australian Technologies Competition in the medtech and pharma award category and the WA Medical Datathon in partnership with WA Data Science Innovation Hub, Telethon Kids Institute and Amazon Web Services (AWS).

November 2020

Pictured Top L-R: MTPConnect's Caroline Duell and GSK Australia's Director of Regulatory Affairs for Australia and New Zealand Dr Carolyn Tucek-Szabo. Bottom L-R GSK Australia's Head of Human Resources for Australia and New Zealand David Fitz-Gerald and MTPConnect's Dr Rebecca Tunstall in the virtual podcast studio discussing GSK's new PhD Graduate Program as part of the REDI initiative.

GSK Australia joins REDI

We welcomed a new REDI partner, GSK Australia, which have established a new industry placement program for PhD graduates as part of the REDI initiative. The program facilitates the cross pollination of scientific, academic research expertise with real-world experiences in a research-intensive pharmaceutical company. The GSK Australia team joined the MTPConnect Podcast to discuss the program.

New report reveals skills priorities for a future ready workforce

We released the *MTPConnect REDI Program Skills Gap Analysis Interim Report* – the first of three workforce reports delivered as part of the REDI initiative. In partnership with L.E.K. Consulting, we engaged widely across the sector to identify three urgent skills gaps, addressable within 12 to 18 months:

- Priority one: Understanding of quality management systems and protocols
- Priority two: Leadership awareness about the importance and best-practice management of cyber security
- Priority three: Strategic design of clinical trials to meet regulatory and payer needs

November 2020 (continued)

Call for proposals opens for REDI Contestable Program

Based on the gaps identified in the interim skills report, we launched the REDI Contestable Program for new education and training initiatives to close some of the priority skills gaps. To assist applicants, a REDI Information Session was held via a webinar and hosted by MTPConnect's Senior Director Stakeholder Engagement Dr Rebecca Tunstall and REDI Program Director Jarrod Belcher.

'Show Me The Money': tips for writing successful commercialisation applications

Our November seminar series webinar focused on tips for securing commercialisation funding. We heard from experts in the field of reviewing and writing funding applications, including gemaker Communications Specialist Rebecca Colless, BioComm Squared CEO Dr Andy Gearing, Director of Biomedical Innovation at The University of Western Australia Professor Kevin Pfleger and MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant. The event was hosted by MTPConnect's Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Western Australia Dr Tracey Wilkinson and the session is available as an episode of The MTPConnect Podcast series and as an on-demand video.

Accelerating research in genomics

MTPConnect announced the establishment of Australia's first industry-led Industry Genomics Network Alliance (InGeNA), a consortium of 13 founding members, including MTPConnect, led by the Australasian Institute of Digital Health. InGeNA was established as part of our GC Project Fund program and will help unlock the potential of Australia's genomics and precision medicine sector.

Keynote session at MTAA Cyber Security Forum

MTPConnect sponsored the MTAA's Cyber Security Forum, where our Managing Director and CEO Dr Dan Grant delivered a keynote address promoting awareness of cyber security issues affecting the medical technology sector and medical devices. The session is featured as an episode of The MTPConnect Podcast series.

Sector supported events

In addition to the MTAA Cyber Security Forum, we also sponsored a panel session at the ACTA Summit 2020 on 'Post COVID-19: New Approaches to Practice'. Through our REDI initiative, we supported the MDPP Alumni Showcase and ANDHealth's Masterclass: ACCELERATE Program. Our Chair Sue MacLeman presented at the launch of the 2021 BioMelbourne Network Women in Leadership Awards and our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Queensland, Andrew Bowskill presented at the Life Sciences Innovation Export Hub Bootcamp. The MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub sponsored the WA Bioengineering Society panel 'Innovation in Medicine', the WA Medical Datathon and a panel session at WestTechFest 2020.

December 2020

Pictured: MTPConnect released its Annual Report for FY2020 in December 2020.

Launching the REDI Industry Fellowship Program

We opened applications for our REDI Industry Fellowship Program which provides grants of up to $250,000 for industry to secure one of up to 40 industry fellows. This unique workforce initiative is giving industry the opportunity to select a researcher, academic, clinician or technology transfer professional to collaborate on distinct projects involving discovery, translation and commercialisation. We also held a REDI Industry Fellowship Program information session webinar which can be viewed as an on-demand video here.

First round of Bridge and BridgeTech REDI fellowships announced

Twenty Australian researchers who are alumni participants from the Bridge and BridgeTech programs were awarded $10,000 fellowships for placement in the pharmaceutical or medical device industry to help commercialise their work. The Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowships program, supported by the REDI program, involves placements of up to six months with partner companies and technology incubators to enhance understanding and skills.

Season 2 of The MTPConnect Podcast wraps up

Our weekly podcast series rounded out 2020 with 49 episodes released during the year featuring 150 guests from across the sector sharing their stories of innovation, entrepreneurship and pandemic resilience. Their stories were listened to in 55 countries.

Presentation at AAMRI convention

MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant spoke about the Australian medical research commercialisation landscape at the Association of Australian Medical Research Institutes AAMRI convention, connecting with 52 member organisations behind Australia's leading medical research institutes.

Artrya is on the pulse

As a feature case study, we shared Artrya's story as it aims to redefine how the risk of heart disease is detected in patients. The Western Australia-based medical technology start-up, supported by our BMTH program, has developed a way to more accurately analyse CT coronary angiograms using deep learning algorithms and artificial intelligence. Artrya recently received TGA regulatory approval to launch the product in the Australian market.

Catch up on latest webinars on our website

As our national seminar series launched this year and pivoted to a webinar format, we established our YouTube channel to make it easier for people to connect, participate and catch-up on earlier sessions as on-demand videos on our website.

Sector supported events

MTPConnect sponsored the ACTA Summit 2020 and Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute's (BDI) annual virtual pitch showcase, while the MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub supported West Tech Fest 2020 in Perth.

January 2021

Sector-Supported Events

TTRA Programs open – call for expressions of interest

We called for expressions of interest for two new Research Centres ($20 million allocated) and the first round of Research Projects funding ($18 million allocated and $6 million available in this round). Expressions of interest for Round 1 of the TTRA Research Projects closed on 22 February 2021, and for the TTRA Research Centres on 15 March 2021.

Information sessions to participate in TTRA funding opportunities

The MTP sector was invited to attend two TTRA information sessions on Research Projects (19 January 2021) and Research Centres (20 January 2021) – to learn more about the different funding opportunities and how to submit applications. For the Research Projects session, the audience heard from MTPConnect's Managing Director and CEO, Dr Dan Grant, TTRA Senior Director Lauren Kelly and TTRA Director Dr Mana Liao about the priority areas, submission process and preparing an application. TTRA program partner representatives ANDHealth's Co-Founder and Chief Product Officer Grace Lethlean, MDPP's National Program Manager Olivia White and UniQuest's Senior Director of the Queensland Emory Drug Discovery Initiative (QEDDI) Dr Andrew Harvey – joined the discussions and assisted with a live question-and-answer segment.

For the Research Centres session, TTRA Expert Advisory Board Chair, Professor Ian Frazer AC FRS, joined MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant, Lauren Kelly and Dr Mana Liao to outline the priority areas, submission process and provide relevant information about preparing an application. An extensive live question-and-answer segment was facilitated.

Both sessions were made available on MTPConnect's YouTube channel and can be viewed as on-demand videos on our website.

February 2021 (continued)

Pictured: MTPConnect's Dr Tracey Wilkinson with Orthocell Chair Dr Stewart Washer at the inaugural WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research in Perth.

Funding boost for Australian manufacturing

The Australian Government announced funding for medical products manufacturing under the MMI on a dollar-for-dollar co-investment basis, with grant sizes starting from $1 million in two streams – translation and integration. Applications closed on 29 March 2021. The medical products road map was also released.

Western Australia shines in first sector spotlight series

The MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub hosted its first WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series with Orthocell Chair Dr Stewart Washer. MTPConnect's monthly breakfast event is held at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research and aims to connect the sector to opportunities and the experiences of Western Australian organisations developing health and medical innovations.

Funding boost for cardiovascular device clinical trials

Through our GC Project Fund program, we established a new effort to boost Australia's involvement in clinical trials for research into cardiovascular devices. The Cardiovascular Device Clinical Trials Collaborative Project is led by the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance (ACvA) with funding from leading industry partners including the Charles Perkins Centre – The University of Sydney and the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute.

Download the *Adaptive Regulation for Digital Health* report

We released the *Adaptive Regulation for Digital Health* report, which examines how digital health industry stakeholders are engaging with the Australian TGA regulatory framework. The report's release was timely, with new TGA rules relating to the regulation of software-based medical devices coming into effect in February 2021.

How Ellume Health's COVID-19 test broke into the US market

For our podcast series, we spoke to Founder and CEO Dr Sean Parsons from Brisbane-based Ellume Health for the full story behind developing the first COVID-19 home test to receive US FDA Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA). Ellume has signed a $385 million (US$300 million) deal with the US Government to supply the over-the-counter diagnostic.

Connecting the Australian medical devices sector to fast-track new technology

We released a case study on the award-winning Medical Device Partnering Program, detailing how an ideas incubator for the South Australian medtech sector has expanded nationally and is setting a new benchmark for the translation of medical device technology in Australia.

March 2021

Expert panellists deliver their thoughts in the March Seminar Event

Our March seminar series event 'Adaptive regulation for digital health technologies – a pathway for industry' drew a large audience to discuss how digital health industry stakeholders are engaging with the Australian therapeutic goods regulatory framework. Important insights were shared by the TGA's Tracey Duffy, The University of Queensland's Dr Lisette Pregelj, ANDHealth's Bronwyn Le Grice, CSIRO's Dr Rob Grenfell and Cardihab's Helen Souris. The session is available on our website as an on-demand video and as a podcast episode. It is highly recommended for start-ups and innovators developing digital health technologies.

Government launches new commercialisation fund

The Australian Government launched a new $30 million commercialisation fund to foster projects that bring industry and researchers together to commercialise new manufacturing products and processes. Under the MMS, the new fund will support projects within the Australian Government's six national manufacturing priorities – including medical products. MTPConnect, along with other Growth Centres and the CSIRO, support the fund which is administered by the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre.

BMTH funding boost for medical devices

The fourth round of our $45 million BMTH program was announced by the Minister for Health and Aged Care, the Hon Greg Hunt MP.

REDI publishes second skills gap report

With jobs and economic growth in sharp focus, we released the second of three REDI reports examining skills gaps in our sector's workforce. The report '*Driving skills development and workforce training for the future MTP workforce*' identifies 20 priority gaps and is based on research carried out in the second half of 2020, in partnership with L.E.K. Consulting, and involved engagement with more than 200 stakeholders from across the sector.

REDI calls for more training proposals to plug skills gaps

Based on the findings of the second skills gap report, the MTPConnect REDI team opened a second request for proposals round for training and/or education programs to address two key skills gaps:

- Identifying unmet market need and understanding the clinical context
- Ability to secure investment, funding and/or industry collaboration.

An information session was held and is available as an on-demand video.

March 2021 (continued)

REDI appoints ARCS Australia and SeerPharma to deliver skills gap training

We announced that ARCS Australia and SeerPharma were selected to deliver new programs addressing key skills gaps that were highlighted in the first REDI skills gap analysis and report.

MTPConnect goes to Canberra for Science Meets Parliament

Pictured (L–R): MTPConnect Chair Sue MacLeman, incoming Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM and MTPConnect Managing Director and CEO Dr Dan Grant at the National Press Club in Canberra.

MTPConnect supported the 'Science Meets Parliament' conference from Science and Technology Australia, including the National Press Club Address by incoming Chief Scientist, Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM.

The event provided a great opportunity to position science and broader STEM issues at the centre of the national policy debate. Dr Foley's address titled 'What next for science and research in Australia?' focused on how we collaborate to solve humankind's greatest challenges and addressed the importance of translating and commercialising Australia's research. Prior to Dr Foley's address, Sue MacLeman delivered the opening remarks to the Press Club.

MTPConnect supports the medicinal cannabis industry conference

MTPConnect's Senior Director of Stakeholder Engagement Dr Rebecca Tunstall and Director of Stakeholder Engagement for New South Wales Dr Duncan Macinnis joined Medicinal Cannabis Industry Association (MCIA) Chair Peter Crock and Epilepsy Action Australia's Lisa Todd for the ACannabis EVOLVE Conference to discuss the roadblocks and opportunities for industry growth.

Dr Dan Grant talks on-the-record on DISER MMI funding

MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant was a guest on Grant Thornton's podcast series 'Navigating the New Normal'. Dr Grant talked with Grant Thornton's Michael Cunningham, National Head of Life Sciences, about the implications of the Australian Government's National Manufacturing Priority road map for medical products.

Artrya shines in the spotlight

The MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub hosted another sector spotlight event at Perth's Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research listening to presentations from digital start-up Artrya co-founders John Konstantopoulos and John Barrington AM.

April 2021

Pictured (L-R): MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant, Johnson & Johnson Innovation's Kathy Connell, Brandon Capital's Helga Mikkelsen, SpeeDx's Colin Denver and Dimerix's Dr Nina Webster joined the Skills Summit webinar on virtual partnering.

Collaboration and skills summit: how to maximise virtual partnering meetings

With the rise of online events and meetings, MTPConnect organised a Skills Summit for the April seminar series webinar, exploring how start-ups can partner effectively at virtual conferences. A panel of industry experts, including Johnson & Johnson Innovation's Kathy Connell, Brandon Capital's Helga Mikkelsen, SpeeDx's Colin Denver and Dimerix Limited's Dr Nina Webster, shared practical advice and first-hand experiences with 90 participants.

AAMRNet submission to parliamentary inquiry

MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant, representing MTPConnect and AAMRNet, appeared before a parliamentary inquiry to highlight the challenges posed to human health by increasing antimicrobial resistance and the lack of new antimicrobials coming through the research and development pipeline.

Guest of the Chair opens

MTPConnect commenced recruitment of its next Guest of the Chair to take up a 12-month appointment. The Guest of The Chair initiative supports the development of board-ready leaders in the sector.

April 2021 (continued)

The 100th episode of The MTPConnect Podcast shares the Inflazome success story

To celebrate the release of the 100th episode of The MTPConnect Podcast, a two-part special was created to highlight the story behind Queensland start-up Inflazome, the scientists behind the discovery and the Roche deal that will hopefully commercialise new treatments for inflammation-related diseases. MTPConnect's Caroline Duell spoke with the co-inventor of the IP behind Inflazome, Professor Kate Schroder, who is Head of the Inflammasome Laboratory and Director of the Centre for Inflammation and Disease Research at the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB). Professor Ian Henderson, the Director of the IMB, joined the discussion. Listen here.

Pictured (L-R): Inflammasome Laboratory's Professor Kate Schroder, MTPConnect's Caroline Duell and Institute for Molecular Bioscience Director Professor Ian Henderson, chatting during the 100th episode of The MTPConnect Podcast series.

Supporting the South Australian Innovation Challenge

MTPConnect supported the South Australian Innovation Challenge, an initiative bringing together innovators, researchers and businesses to develop cutting-edge products in the health, ageing and disability sectors to create early market advantage and growth opportunities for South Australian businesses. With $1 million committed from the South Australian Government, the initiative aims to propel the state's economic growth.

2021 Australian Technologies Competition

The 2021 Australian Technologies Competition opened for applications, with MTPConnect once again supporting this national competition and late-stage accelerator. The MTPConnect Podcast series interviewed last year's winner, Electrogenics Laboratories, which won the 'Australian Technology Company of the Year Award' and the 'Medtech and Pharma Award'.

AI platform improving health outcomes for patients with chronic illness in rural South Australia

We released a case study looking at South Australia's iCCnet (Integrated Cardiovascular Clinical Network SA) which has deployed a telehealth home-monitoring program throughout remote and rural parts the state for those living with cardiovascular conditions and other chronic illnesses. Read the case study here.

May 2021

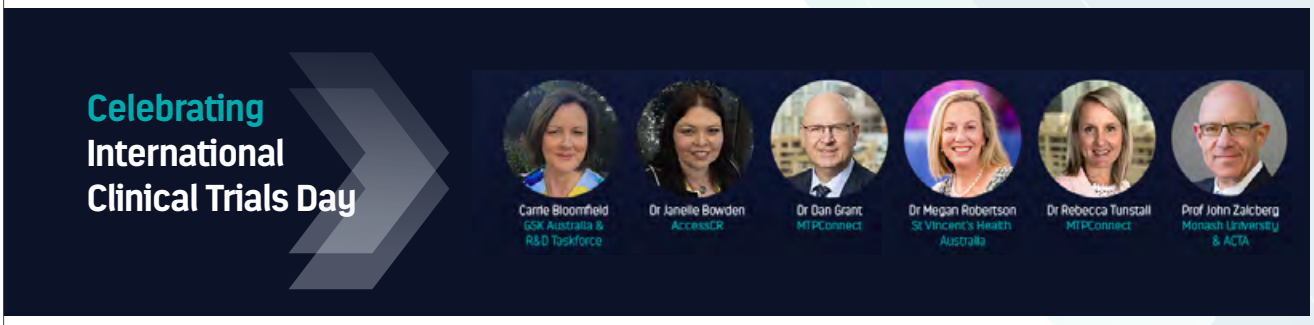
Pictured: A high-profile panel discuss clinical trials in Australia at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre to coincide with International Clinical Trials Day 2021 and the launch of MTPConnect's new report

New report: Australia's clinical trials sector shows healthy growth

MTPConnect marked International Clinical Trials Day 2021 with the release of a new report that reveals the size and scope of Australia's clinical trials sector and opportunities for future growth. The report – *Australia's Clinical Trials Sector: Advancing innovative healthcare and powering economic growth* – reveals that clinical trials contributed $1.4 billion to the Australian economy through direct expenditure or investment in 2019 and that the sector now employs more than 8,000 Australians. This new report follows a comprehensive sector profile published by MTPConnect in 2017 – both reports are available here.

Expert panel launches clinical trials report at Melbourne event

To launch the new report, MTPConnect delivered a panel session event at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre, attended in-person by more than 100 people and 50 people virtually. Joining the panel discussion were Carrie Bloomfield (Director and Head of Clinical Operations at GSK Australia and Co-Chair of the R&D Taskforce), Professor John Zalcberg (the then Chair of ACTA and Director, Cancer Research Program, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Monash University), Dr Janelle Bowden (Managing Director, AccessCR), Dr Megan Robertson (Group Chief Research Officer for St Vincent's Health Australia and Chair of the AusBiotech Clinical Trials Advisory Group) and MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant and Dr Rebecca Tunstall. Watch the webcast here.



First REDI fellowships awarded to boost medical research commercialisation capabilities

MTPConnect announced the first two fellows from the REDI Fellowship Program. Dr Christina Kulis from Queensland would move to Brandon Capital Partners in Brisbane, while Dr Alexander Staudacher from South Australia would work closely with Melbourne-headquartered Telix Pharmaceuticals.

May 2021 (continued)

REDI awards contracts to Biointelect and Cicada for workforce skills gap training and education

MTPConnect announced its selection of additional industry training providers to deliver new programs addressing key skills gaps in product development and commercialisation:

A Biointelect led consortium with ARCS Australia and Biodesign Australia will deliver workshops led by practitioners for practitioners, including researchers, start-ups, entrepreneurs and SMEs, to provide knowledge and tools to secure investment and industry collaboration for medical innovations, including therapeutics, medical devices and digital health solutions.

Cicada Innovations will deliver training workshops for researchers, start-ups and SMEs to develop their ability to identify unmet market needs, understand clinical context, and develop commercially viable products, including therapeutics, medical devices and digital health solutions.

New funding to support medical products manufacturing in Western Australia

MTPConnect launched a new voucher program to boost medical products manufacturing in Western Australia. Funding of $450,000 was made available through the MTPConnect WA Life Sciences Innovation Hub to support SMEs with their medical products manufacturing capabilities.

Western Australia MTP Sector Spotlight Series event with Resonance Health

MTPConnect held its monthly Sector Spotlight Series event in Perth, shining a light on Resonance Health – a global healthcare company based in Western Australia that specialises in the development and delivery of non-invasive medical imaging software and analysis services to address liver disease. MTPConnect's Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Western Australia Dr Tracey Wilkinson was joined by the then CEO of Resonance Health Alison Laws.

Pictured: Outgoing Resonance Health CEO Alison Laws and MTPConnect's Dr Tracey Wilkinson speaking at the Sector Spotlight event in Perth

Dimerix talks partnering in the age of COVID

With ongoing COVID-19 disruptions, we released a podcast episode from the Collaboration and Skills Summit featuring Dr Nina Webster, Managing Director and CEO of Dimerix Limited, on the highs and lows of forming relationships and doing deals online.

Industry Genomics Network Alliance launches strategic plan

The Industry Genomics Network Alliance (InGeNA) published the InGeNA Strategic Plan, highlighting the breadth and range of industry groups committed to working together to bring a shared perspective on critically important areas underpinning the future of genomics. The alliance, hosted by the Australasian Institute of Digital Health, was established in 2020 with funding through MTPConnect's GC Project Fund program.

May 2021 (continued)

BridgeTech Symposium for 2021 held in Melbourne

The 2020 and 2021 BridgeTech participants attended a three-day symposium of in-depth seminars and real-world case studies, taking part in pitching and collaboration activities with industry leaders from around the world. MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant made the opening speech, welcoming the delegates to the program, which is supported by MTPConnect's REDI initiative. REDI Director, Jarrod Belcher, led a session on improving collaboration between research and industry.

Pictured: MTPConnect's Jarrod Belcher, REDI Director, discussing research and industry collaboration at the BridgeTech Symposium.

Sector-supported events

MTPConnect supported various sector events in May including the ACTA Clinical Trials 2021: National Tribute and Award Ceremony, celebrating the contribution of the clinical trials sector in Australia. REDI Director Jarrod Belcher spoke about workplace skills gaps at the 2021 Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare Symposium run by the Centre for Healthcare Knowledge and Innovation. MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant joined a public discussion panel on data privacy and ethics surrounding implementation of precision medicine. We also sponsored Science on the Swan, Western Australia's annual health and medical research conference.

REDI training underway

Engaged by the REDI program, Seer Pharma and ARCS Australia began rolling out new education and training programs. Seer Pharma began its series of Quality Management Systems (QMS) and Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) workshops, while ARCS Australia announced the first of its five-day Foundations Bootcamps addressing regulatory and reimbursement needs to facilitate potential early market access of products.

MTPConnect internship

We welcomed Dr Meghana Kulkarni as she commenced a two-month internship at MTPConnect as Associate Project Manager working across our BTB and TTRA programs, based in Melbourne.

MTPConnect celebrates five year 'Twitterversary'

MTPConnect has been sharing conversations and supporting the growth and progress of the MTP sector for five years across the Twitter platform. With more than 5,000 followers and a solid engagement rate, the social media platform is a key element of the organisation's communication activities.

June 2021

Doing more for Australians with diabetes and cardiovascular disease

Our TTRA initiative engaged with the sector to identify unmet needs relating to the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or management of diabetes or cardiovascular disease. We reached out via a survey to researchers, healthcare and medical professionals, industry stakeholders and those with knowledge of the lived experience of diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Drug repurposing report launched

MTPConnect launched a new report/discussion paper – D*rug Repurposing: Building the Path to Australian Success* – that explores the drug repurposing landscape in Australia and just what it will take to deliver more repurposed drugs in ways that improve people's health. We aim to show how Australia can participate more vigorously in this evolving activity.

More REDI training programs roll out

Cicada Innovations launched its first national workshop series, Cicada MedLab: Commercialisation 101, in June. Workshops commence from August onwards and will provide the knowledge and skills to get started on the journey of commercialising digital health, diagnostics, devices or therapeutics solutions.

The Biointelect Venturer Program is a new one-day course designed for those looking to leverage external funding to accelerate the commercialisation of their product or to take their start-up to the next level.

June 2021 (continued)

Pictured: MTPConnect Chair Sue MacLeman presenting at the plenary session at the ARCS conference.

ARCS 2021 Annual Conference

At the ARCS 2021 Annual Conference, our Chair Sue MacLeman spoke at the plenary session on building Australia's competitive advantage post-COVID. MTPConnect hosted a panel session on national and international initiatives improving clinical trials in Australia; the session was co-chaired by Ms MacLeman and our Managing Director and CEO, Dr Dan Grant, and featured a presentation by our Senior Director of Stakeholder Engagement, Dr Rebecca Tunstall.

Supporting Australia's presence at international biotechnology events

MTPConnect supported various international events in June through virtual participation. MTPConnect and AAMRNet were on board with 60 Australian companies as part of the Team Australia digital pavilion at BIO Digital 21. We also supported Austrade's efforts to organise the Australian biotech mission to BIO KOREA 2021 with a virtual Australian pavilion, and Dr Grant spoke about 'Australian Industry Trends and Opportunities/R&D Ecosystem' at the Australia Korea Global Open Innovation Forum for Pharmaceutical Industry.

Joining the conversation at sector events

Our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for WesternAustralia Dr Tracey Wilkinson presented a keynote on the importance of cybersecurity in the healthcare sector at the CyberWest Summit 2021 in Perth. MTPConnect's Dr Dan Grant joined a virtual panel at the HealthData 21 conference for the InGeNA genomics stream to discuss funding the next wave of healthcare transformation led by genomics. Our Chair Sue MacLeman joined a virtual panel discussion at ANDHealth's Masterclass for digital health commercialisation, which is a program supported by the REDI initiative. Our Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Queensland Andrew Bowskill presented details about our REDI initiative to The University of Queensland Centre for Clinical Research.

Communication Activities

Communication Activities

Published reports, promotional material, podcast series episodes, website e-news stories, webinars, media publicity and other documentation relevant to promoting the activities of MTPConnect and the MTP sector are detailed in this chapter, covering the period of 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

The MTPConnect Podcast Series

The MTPConnect Podcast series, launched in February 2019, is now a popular weekly podcast that promotes the people, projects and issues behind the Australian MTP sector. The show published 40 weekly episodes in FY2021, delivering a total of 103 episodes to date. Speaking with 81 guests during the year and reaching listeners in 65 countries, the podcast was downloaded more than 17,000 times.

17,015 podcast downloads

81 guests

65 countries

40 episodes

Top 10

Podcast episodes by downloads:

1. Spotlight: Starpharma's COVID-19 Nasal Spray for UK & Europe (published 5 March 2021) – 436
2. How is MedTech Innovation Pushing the Frontiers of Human Movement? Listen to our Webinar! (published 31 July 2020) – 402
3. Spotlight: ANDHealth Reveals the Sleeping Giant in Digital Health (published 6 July 2020) -401
4. South Australia's Novel Response to Coronavirus (published 13 August 2020) – 399
5. Improving Workforce Skills: Building a Clinical Trial Talent Pipeline (19 August 2020) – 393
6. Australia's Novel Response to the New Coronavirus (published 10 Feb 2020) – 389
7. Digital Health – The Future of Tomorrow (published 29 Jan 2020) – 382
8. How Artificial Intelligence is Transforming Healthcare with DataRWE (published 28 May 2020) – 380
9. Funding on Offer Through the Biomedical Translation Bridge Program (published 7 Feb 2020) – 376
10. Navigating Regulatory Pathways: Orthocell Moves Into New Markets (published 17 Feb 2021) – 372

Top 10

Countries listening:

1. Australia
2. United States
3. United Kingdom
4. New Zealand
5. Germany
6. Taiwan
7. Japan
8. France
9. Singapore
10. South Korea

Podcast guests (87 speakers, 81 unique guests):

- **Ep.64** – Dr John Collins, Chief Operating Officer, CIMIT; Marcus Dawe, Co-Founder and CEO, Health Horizon (GC project); and Dr Kath Giles, Managing Director and CEO, OncoRes Medical (BMTH project)
- **Ep.65** – Bronwyn Le Grice, CEO, Managing Director and Founder, ANDHealth (GC – REDI partner)
- **Ep.66** – Kylie Walker, CEO; and Dr Marguerite Evans-Galea, Executive Director – Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) program, both of the Australian Academy of Technology and Engineering (ATSE) (REDI partner)
- **Ep.67** – Professor Caroline McMillen AO, Chief Scientist, Department for Innovation and Skills, Government of South Australia
- **Ep.68** – Associate Professor Jacqueline Alderson, The University of Western Australia; Rick Wingfield, Chief Technology Officer, Catapult Sports; and Dr Lee Walsh, Director and Principal, Platypus Technical
- **Ep.69** – Anna Barwick, Clinical Pharmacist and researcher, University of New England (UNE), and Director, PharmOnline; and Dr Lou Conway, Director Smart Region Incubator, UNE
- **Ep.70** – Professor Nikolai Petrovsky, Director of Endocrinology at Flinders Medical Centre, Professor at the School of Medicine, Flinders University and Founder, Vaxine Pty Ltd (GC project)
- **Ep.71** – Professor Grant McArthur, Executive Director; and Michelle Barrett, Head, Education and Training Development, both of VCCC Alliance (REDI partner)
- **Ep.72** – Dr Manuel Zander, R&D Tax Incentive Case Manager, AusIndustry; Sue Mundy, Director, Public Groups & International, Australian Taxation Office; and Dave Sammut, Associate, Access RnD Tax Solutions
- **Ep.73** – Dr Tam Nguyen, Deputy Director of Research, St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne and Conference Chair, Innovate Health Conference
- **Ep.74** – Dr Parisa Glass, Director of Innovation and Enterprise, The George Institute for Global Health and Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, UNSW; Vesna Todorovski, the Program Manager – Genovate Initiative, The George Institute for Global Health (REDI partner)
- **Ep.75** – Miranda Shaw, General Manager; and Richard Taggart, Chief Information Officer, both of Sydney Local Health District
- **Ep.76** – Jenny Herz, Managing Director, Biointelect; Elizabeth de Somer, CEO, Medicines Australia; Professor David Paterson, Director UQ Centre for Clinical Research, Faculty of Medicine at University of Queensland; Paul Field – Australian Representative, Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP) and Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND); and Julie Philips, Managing Director, Opal Biosciences and MTPConnect Director (all AAMRNet members)
- **Ep.77** – Dr Jack Richards, Scientific Director, ZiP Diagnostics; Dr Sarah Hennebry, Associate Principal, FPA Patent Attorneys; and Dr John Westwater, Principal, OneVentures
- **Ep.78** – Hon. Peter McGauran, Australia's Consul General and Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner, Austrade Houston; Professor Jason Kovacic, Executive Director, Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute; Professor Gemma Figtree, President, Australian Cardiovascular Alliance; and Mr Falko Thiele, Director Clinical & Regulatory Affairs, BIOTRONIK Australia
- **Ep.79** – Professor Lyn Griffiths, Director; and Joel Spotswood, Program Manager, both of The Bridge and BridgeTech Programs (REDI partners)
- **Ep.80** – Dr Buzz Palmer, CEO; and Dr Vishaal Kishore, CSO, both of MedTech Actuator (REDI partner)
- **Ep.81** – Lisa Farrar, National Program Manager; and Michael Valentine, Business Development Manager, both of APRIntern (REDI partner)
- **Ep.82** – Pete Horsley, Founder, Remarkable Tech; and Matt Boustred, Co-Founder, ResusRight

- **Ep.83** – Professor Karen Reynolds, Director; and Stephen Blakeney, Innovations Manager, both of the Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) (REDI Partner)
- **Ep.84** – David Fitz-Gerald, Head of Human Resources – Australia & New Zealand; and Dr Carolyn Tucek-Szabo, Director of Regulatory Affairs for Australia and New Zealand, both of GSK Australia (REDI partner)
- **Ep.85** – Associate Professor Branwen Morgan, University of Technology Sydney and Managing Director & Co-founder, OUTBREAK (AAMRNet member); and Distinguished Professor Antoine van Oijen, Deputy Managing Director, OUTBREAK and Director of Health Programs, University of Wollongong
- **Ep.86** – Rebecca Colless, Communications Specialist, gemaker; Dr Andy Gearing, CEO, BioComm Squared; and Professor Kevin Pfleger, Director Biomedical Innovation, The University of Western Australia
- **Ep.87** – Dr Dan Grant, Managing Director and CEO, MTPConnect
- **Ep.88** – Dr Felicia Pradera, Medical Countermeasures (MCM) – Program Leader, DMTC
- **Ep.89** – Dr Dan Grant, Managing Director and CEO; Lauren Kelly, Senior Director TTRA Program; and Dr Mana Liao, Director TTRA Program, all of MTPConnect; Grace Lethlean, Co-Founder & Chief Product Officer, ANDHealth; Olivia White, National Program Manager, MDPP; Dr Andrew Harvey, Senior Director QEDDI, UniQuest (TTRA partners)
- **Ep.90** – Dr Dan Grant, Managing Director and CEO; Lauren Kelly, Senior Director TTRA Program; and Dr Mana Liao, Director TTRA Program, all of MTPConnect; Professor Ian Frazer AC, Chair, TTRA Expert Advisory Board (TTRA)
- **Ep.91** – Dr Sean Parsons, Founder and CEO, Ellume Health
- **Ep.92** – Trevor John, Director of Regional Development and Executive Officer; and Kate O'Mara, Director Special Projects, both of the Regional Development Australia Hunter Committee
- **Ep.93** – Paul Anderson, CEO, Orthocell
- **Ep.94** – Martin Dent, Program Manager – CRC Projects, and Adrian March, Assistant Manager – Industry Engagement Branch, both of the DISER; and Shay Chalmers, Owner and Director, Strategic Engineering Australia
- **Ep.95** – Dr Jackie Fairley, CEO, Starpharma (BTB project)
- **Ep.96** – Bronwyn Le Grice, CEO, Managing Director and Founder, ANDHealth (REDI partner); and Dr Devinder Chauhan, Founder, Macuject (BMTH project)
- **Ep.97** – Nick Purtell, General Manager, Industry Engagement Branch, Manufacturing Division, DISER
- **Ep.98** – Dr Lisette Pregelj, Lecturer – School of Chemistry and Molecular Biosciences, The University of Queensland; Tracey Duffy, First Assistant Secretary of the Medical Devices & Product Quality Division, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Department of Health; Helen Souris, Chief Executive Officer, Cardihab; Dr Rob Grenfell, Director of Health & Biosecurity, CSIRO; and Bronwyn Le Grice, CEO & Managing Director, ANDHealth (GC Initiative)
- **Ep.99** – John Konstantopoulos, CEO and Co-Founder; and John Barrington AM, Chairman and Co-Founder, both of Artrya (BMTH project)
- **Eps.100 & 101** – Professor Kate Schroder, Head, Inflammasome Laboratory and Director, Centre for Inflammation and Disease Research; and Professor Ian Henderson, Director, both of the Institute for Molecular Bioscience (IMB), The University of Queensland
- **Ep.102** – Kim Lyle, Executive Chairman, Electrogenics Laboratories; and Patrick Mooney, Chair, Impact Tech Ventures (GC Initiative DISER)
- **Ep.103** – Dr Nina Webster, Managing Director and CEO, Dimerix Limited (BTB project)

Podcast Episodes:

Q1

Are You Exploring Pathways To Commercialise a Health Innovation? Join Our Global Webinar

Spotlight: ANDHealth Reveals the Sleeping Giant in Digital Health

Improving Workforce Skills: How Mentoring is Creating a Culture Shift in STEMM Career Paths

Meet Professor Caroline McMillen – South Australia's Chief Scientist

How is MedTech Innovation Pushing the Frontiers of Human Movement? Listen to our Webinar!

Exploring the Pathways of a Regional Founder

South Australia's Novel Response to Coronavirus

Improving Workforce Skills: Building a Clinical Trial Talent Pipeline

How will the R&D Tax Incentive Strengthen Your Business? Listen to Our Seminar!

Spotlighting Innovation in the Australian MTP Sector

Improving Workforce Skills: Championing Social Entrepreneurship for Start-ups

RPA Virtual Hospital – Revolutionising Patient Care

Launching Australia's first Antimicrobial Resistance Network & the Fighting Superbugs report

Q2

Developing Diagnostics Needs A Different Approach: Listen to our Webinar!

Why Australia is the Destination of Choice for International Medical Device Clinical Trials. Listen to our Virtual Medtech Conference 2020 Webinar!

Improving Workforce Skills: Inspiring the Next Generation of Australian Medtech & Pharma Entrepreneurs

Improving Workforce Skills: Creating a Vibrant Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Improving Workforce Skills: Building an Industry-Ready Workforce for the Future

Accelerating Remarkable Disability Tech To Change Lives

Improving Workforce Skills: Supporting Australia's Growing Medical Device Startup Sector

Improving Workforce Skills: GSK Australia Joins REDI with new PhD Graduate Innovation Program!

World Antimicrobial Awareness Week: OUTBREAK Report On Superbugs

Show Me The Money: Preparing Successful Commercialisation Funding Applications. Listen to Our Webinar!

The Future of Digital Security in Australian Medtech – Lives Depend On It

Developing Medical Countermeasures for Pandemic Preparedness

Q3

Funding for Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease On Offer Through The Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Initiative

The Lowdown: Funding for Two Research Centres in Diabetes & Cardiovascular Disease Through The Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Initiative

Testing times – Aussie medical device breaks into US market

Establishing a Regional Medtech Network out of Newcastle

Navigating Regulatory Pathways: Orthocell Moves Into New Markets

Collaboration for Innovation: CRC-P Grants for Medical Products Manufacturing. Listen To Our Webinar!

Spotlight: Starpharma's COVID-19 Nasal Spray for UK & Europe

Improving Workforce Skills: Supporting the Development Pathway For Emerging Digital Health Entrepreneurs

Making it Happen: Modern Manufacturing and Medical Products

Adaptive regulation for digital health technologies – a pathway for industry. Listen to Our Seminar!

Spotlight: Artrya Marches to its Own Beat

Q4

The Inflazome Story: the research, the deal and scientists that made it happen

Part 2: The Inflazome Story – the research, the deal and scientists that made it happen

Are you a medtech or pharma startup? The 2021 Australian Technologies Competition wants you!

Partnering in the age of COVID: Real World Tips from Dimerix

Published Reports in FY2021

MTPConnect Reports – website pageviews during FY2021:

1. MTPConnect 2020 Sector Competitiveness Plan – 2,187
2. Company Reports (Annual Report, Business Plan) – 1,159
3. Drug Repurposing: Building the Path to Australian Success – 121
4. Clinical Trials Sector Reports – 1,127
5. COVID-19 Impact reports (editions 1 & 2, Supplementary Report with MTAA) – 1,948
6. Fighting Superbugs – 625
7. REDI Skills Gap Analysis Reports – 1,084
8. Adaptive Regulation for Digital Health– 391
9. Digital Health in Indonesia: Opportunities for Australia – 248
10. Frugal Innovation in Medical Devices and Technologies: The India Opportunity – 206
11. A Survey of Workforce Skills and Capacity in the Medical Technology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical and Digital Health (MTP) Sector – 881
12. How Global MedTech & Pharma Corporates Engage with Australia – 458
13. Precision Medicine Roundtable White Paper – 246
14. Regenerative Medicine: Opportunities for Australia – 590

Digital and Social Media Metrics

4,820 Twitter followers

5,501 LinkedIn followers

3,039 Newsletter subscribers

68,853 Website total users

MTPConnect Website

Reach:

- 68,853 total users
- 68,177 new users
- 108,194 sessions
- 227,075 page views
- Users spent an average of 0:01:53 on every page

Top locations of website visitors:

1. Australia – 47,644
2. US – 9,792
3. India – 1,588
4. UK – 1,249
5. Germany – 758

Top pages viewed:

1. Homepage – 33,901 (14.93%)
2. BMTH Program page – 9,341 (4.11%)
3. REDI Fellowship Program page – 8,444 (3.72%)
4. BTB Program page – 6,266 (2.76%)
5. TTRA Program page – 4,999 (2.20%)

MTPConnect Newsletter

- Recipients at June 2021 – 3,039
- Average open rate over 12 months – 29.2%
- Average click rate over 12 months – 20.48%

Championing the MTP Sector

MTPConnect Social Media

MTPConnect Twitter:

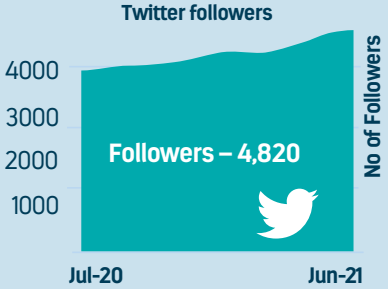
- 4,820 followers
- Total number of tweets – 837
- 1,620,045 impressions
- Average engagement rate over 12 months – 1.55%

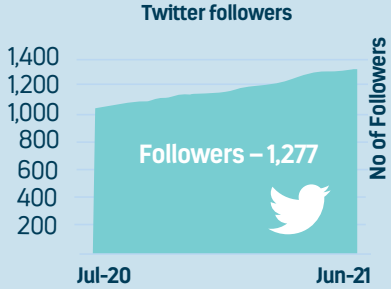
Managing Director and CEO Twitter:

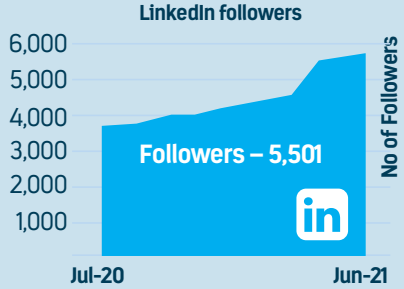
- 1,277 followers
- Total number of tweets – 190
- 308,218 impressions
- Average engagement rate over 12 months – 1%

MTPConnect LinkedIn:

- 5,501 followers
- Total number of posts – 412
- 363,854 impressions
- Average engagement rate over 12 months – 4.62%







Webinars:

MTPConnect webinars

17 virtual webinar events held

22.75 hours of webinar content.

Total participants attending: **1728**

On demand views (to Sept 21): **1928**

Average rating/score: **8.28 / 10**

Over **95%** satisfied+ feedback

Q1

07 July 2020: Health Horizon – Competitive Intelligence for BMTH Projects *(invitation only – BMTH projects)*

30 July 2020: Frontiers of Biomechanics and Human Movement

27 August 2020: How the R&D Tax Incentive Helps to Grow Your Business

22 September 2020: Developing Diagnostics: A different approach compared to drugs and devices

24 September 2020: Launching Australia's first Antimicrobial Resistance Network

Q2

6 October 2020: Australia as a medical device trial destination: Maintain momentum in your clinical development program

21 October 2020: MedTech Global Commercialisation Strategy *(invitation only – BMTH and BTB projects)*

18 November 2020: Show Me The Money: Tips for Preparing Successful Commercialisation Funding Applications

19 November 2020: REDI Information Session – Call for Proposals for Skills Gap Training Programs

26 November 2020: Privacy in the Research Context *(invitation only – BMTH and BTB projects)*

17 December 2020: REDI Information session – Call for Fellowships Applications from Industry Sponsors

Q3

19 January 2021: TTRA Information Session – Funding Call for New Research Projects

20 January 2021: TTRA Information Session – Funding Call to Establish New Research Centres

24 February 2021: Collaboration for Innovation: CRC-P Grants for Medical Products Manufacturing

17 March 2021: REDI Information Session – Call for Proposals for Skills Gap Training Programs (Round 2)

24 March 2021: Adaptive regulation for digital health-tech – a pathway for industry

Q4

29 April 2021: Collaboration and Skills Summit: Partnering for Success – How to maximise virtual partnering meetings!

Case Studies:

Q1

Let's hear it for Noisy Guts

OncoRes Medical helps get surgeons in touch

Q2

Driving Australia's medtech manufacturing for patients recovering from brain surgery

Changing lives with digital patient registry and analytics platforms

Artrya is on the pulse

Q3

Connecting the Australian medical devices sector to fast-track new technology

Silk-based implants set to revolutionise the treatment of chronic middle ear disease

Q4

AI platform improving health outcomes for patients with chronic illness in rural South Australia

Media Mentions:

Q1

Portable MRI system attracts $1 million development grant, @AuManufacturing
https://www.aumanufacturing.com.au/portable-mri-system-attracts-1-million-development-grant

Medtech sector ready to provide jobs and attract investment, AFR
https://www.afr.com/companies/healthcare-and-fitness/medtech-sector-ready-to-provide-jobs-and-attract-investment-20200706-p559c2

Accelerating diabetes and cardiovascular disease research, DISER
https://www.minister.industry.gov.au/ministers/karenandrews/media-releases/accelerating-diabetes-and-cardiovascular-disease-research

MTPConnect to administer new research accelerator, Biotech Dispatch
https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/mtpconnect-to-administer-new-research-accelerator

$18.8M investment for Australian medtech research, Australian Manufacturing
https://www.australianmanufacturing.com.au/127450/18-8m-investment-for-australian-medtech-research

$600,000 federal grant for quick 30 minute COVID-19 test, Mirage News
https://www.miragenews.com/600-000-federal-grant-for-quick-30-minute-covid-19-test/

Australian government fronts up $19 million for digital health tech development, ZDNet
https://www.zdnet.com/article/australian-government-fronts-up-19-million-for-digital-health-tech-development/

Optiscan Imaging in New Melbourne Oral Cancer Trial, @AuManufacturing
https://www.aumanufacturing.com.au/optiscan-imaging-in-new-melbourne-oral-cancer-trial

Funding injection for coronavirus tests that deliver results in 30 minutes, The New Daily
https://thenewdaily.com.au/news/coronavirus/2020/07/21/funding-coronavirus-test/

Funding for the development of health-focused devices, Biotech Dispatch
https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/funding-for-the-development-of-health-focused-devices

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Millions in funding for virus vaccine, treatment hope, The Daily Telegraph
https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/lifestyle/health/millions-in-funding-for-virus-vaccine-treatment-hope/news-story/49c2bd9a0f3ceaa15f840381fbcbf8e7?btr=346a647e0080ad5338cedf58180699fb

Funding Boost for COVID-19 Research, Department of Health
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Pharmaxis awarded A$1 million to progress Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy drug into the clinic, Proactive Investors
https://www.proactiveinvestors.com.au/companies/news/928159/pharmaxis-awarded-a1-million-to-progress-duchenne-muscular-dystrophy-drug-into-the-clinic-928159.html

Dimerix wins $1m grant to test DMX-200 treatment in the fight against COVID-19, Stockhead
https://stockhead.com.au/health/dimerix-wins-1m-grant-to-test-dmx-200-treatment-in-the-fight-against-covid-19

Millions in funding for virus vaccine, treatment hope, news.com.au
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Government announces support for COVID-19 research projects, Biotech Dispatch
https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/government-announces-support-for-covid-19-research-projects

Millions in funding for virus vaccine, treatment hope, The Australian
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SA researchers get funding jab to boost coronavirus vaccine, Adelaide Advertiser
(data on file)

SpeeDx and Nepean Hospital Awarded Federal Funding for Viral Respiratory Biomarker Test, BusinessWire
https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20200902005970/en/SpeeDx-Nepean-Hospital-Awarded-Federal-Funding-Viral

Federal, MTPConnect $10.4m for 13 'Early Stage' Projects, BiotechDaily
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LBT Innovations (ASX:LBT) awarded $750K for APAS-AMR analysis module, The Market Herald
https://themarketherald.com.au/lbt-innovations-asxlbt-awarded-750k-for-apas-amr-analysis-module-2020-09-03/

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$1.35M for world-first needle-free Zika virus vaccine, Mirage News
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Companies welcome funding for COVID-19 projects, BioPharmaDispatch
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Scopo's Health Powerplays: Show me the (grant) money, Stockhead
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New white paper highlights need for action on AMR, BioPharmaDispatch
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'Pharma resistance' to battle superbugs, The Australian
https://www.theaustralian.com.au/science/pharma-resistance-to-battle-superbugs/news-story/53546a407cec02b4de4e14cafb287420

Australia's first Antimicrobial Resistance Network to combat global health threat, Health Industry Hub
https://www.healthindustryhub.com.au/pharmaceutical-news-trends/australias-first-antimicrobial-resistance-network-to-combat-global-health-threat/

This new antimicrobial resistance network could boost Recce, Botanix and Next Science, Stockhead
https://stockhead.com.au/health/recce-botanix-and-next-science-poised-to-benefit-from-antimicrobial-resistance-push

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Picking winners needs super funds to work, The Australian Financial Review
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The manufacturing companies ready to lift Australia out of recession, The Australian Financial Review
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Report calls for long-term investment in pandemic R&D, Stockhead
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First-of-its-kind manufacturing facility in Australia, Health Industry Hub
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Australia's device and biotech companies hold the key for future pandemic preparedness: MTPConnect report, BioWorld
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New consortium to drive Australia's regenerative medicine future, Health Industry Hub
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MTPConnect announces research funding and partners in diabetes and cardiovascular disease, Health Industry Hub
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New initiative to accelerate research for diabetes and cardiovascular disease, Biotech Dispatch
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Global study will test Dimerix drug compound DMX-200 as COVID-19 treatment, Stockhead
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MTPConnect releases first of three reports on skill gaps, Biotech Dispatch
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GSK backs MTPConnect industry-researcher initiative, BioPharmaDispatch
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'Huge opportunities': Disease-busting hub could fuel economic rebound, The Age & The Sydney Morning Herald
https://www.theage.com.au/business/companies/huge-opportunities-disease-busting-hub-could-fuel-economic-rebound-20201129-p56its.html

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Q3

$38 million available for research into diabetes, heart disease, Department of Health
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Greg Hunt announces funding for two new research centres, Biotech Dispatch
https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/greg-hunt-announces-funding-for-two-new-research-centres

#LIVE: Health Minister Greg Hunt announces funding for new research centres aimed at preventing and treating diabetes and cardiovascular disease. #AusPol #9News, 9 News
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Greg Hunt announces funding for two new research centres, BioPharmaDispatch
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Health Department to fund $38M for diabetes and heart disease research, The Market Herald
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Federal, MTP $38m For Diabetes, Heart Disease, BiotechDaily
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Experienced medtech executive Sue MacLeman appointed to PI Board, Planet Innovation
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MTPConnect funding for cardiovascular device clinical trial collaboration, Biotech Dispatch
https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/mtpconnect-funding-for-cardiovascular-device-clinical-trial-coll

MTPConnect Identifies 20 Biotech Skill Gaps, BiotechDaily
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New MTPConnect report highlights skill gap, BioPharmaDispatch
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Skills gap looms for pharma, Pharma in Focus
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ARCS Australia awarded contract for workforce skills gap training, Health Industry Hub
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New boost in Australia's race to create world-leading medical devices, The Australian Financial Review
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Federal $3.2m for Medical Devices, Biotech Daily
(data on file)

MRFF backs development of devices through to early stage manufacturing, Biotech Dispatch
https://biotechdispatch.com.au/news/mrff-backs-development-of-devices-through-to-early-stage-manufac

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Allegra Orthopaedics (ASX:AMT) completes animal study, The Market Herald
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Australia lays out medical product manufacturing priorities to shore up future supply chains post-pandemic, BioWorld
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Industry alliance to be the united voice for Australia's genomics future, Health Industry Hub
https://www.healthindustryhub.com.au/pharmaceutical-news-trends/industry-alliance-to-be-the-united-voice-for-australias-genomics-future/

FDA awards Oncores Medical's breast cancer innovation breakthrough device designation, BioWorld
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https://www.healthindustryhub.com.au/pharmaceutical-news-trends/gsk-bridges-the-skills-gap-between-academia-and-pharma-industry/

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Medtech grants of up to $100K on offer, Startup News
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Untapped potential in clinical trials sector, Innovation Aus
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Industry dept mulls Growth Centres' future, Innovation Aus
https://www.innovationaus.com/industry-department-mulls-growth-centres-future/

Secret Report Backs Industry Growth Centres, Points To Under-Funding, @AuManufacturing
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Website News Stories:

Q1

06 July 2020: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in June

07 July 2020: ANDHealth's New Report Reveals the Emerging Opportunities in the Australian Digital Health Sector

13 July 2020: MTPConnect to Deliver $47M Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Accelerator Program

15 July 2020: How is MedTech Innovation Pushing the Frontiers of Human Movement? Join our Webinar!

20 July 2020: Australian medtech research efforts boosted by $18.8 million

29 July 2020: BLOG: Shaping the Path to Drug Discovery

05 August 2020: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in July

06 August 2020: How will the R&D Tax Incentive Strengthen Your Business? Join Our Webinar!

10 August 2020: APR.Intern Joins REDI

10 August 2020: New Appointments at MTPConnect

12 August 2020: International Opportunity: You Could (Virtually) Travel to PitchCity!

12 August 2020: Congratulations to our new Guest of The Chair – Dr Emma Ball

13 August 2020: Seeking Information on Capabilities for COVID-19 Vaccine & Treatment Manufacturing in Australia

14 August 2020: South Australia's Novel Response to Coronavirus

19 August 2020: New WA Appointment for Stakeholder Engagement Team

20 August 2020: MTPConnect Chair appointed to key COVID-19 Science and Industry Technical Advisory Group

20 August 2020: Expand Your Medtech Business to India

21 August 2020: VCCC's SKILLED Internship Program Builds Clinical Trial Talent Pipeline

21 August 2020: COVID-19 Impact Report – Quick Read

24 August 2020: Apply NOW for Subsidised Access to Microscopy Services

01 September 2020: Developing Diagnostics Needs A Different Approach: Join our Webinar!

03 September 2020: Australian biomedical research efforts boosted by $10.4 million

04 September 2020: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in August

14 September 2020: Join us at the World's Largest Medtech Conference

15 September 2020: Championing Social Entrepreneurship for Start-Ups

15 September 2020: New MDPP Directory Connects Australia's Medical Device Sector to Drive Innovation

16 September 2020: 20 Industry Fellowships on Offer for the Australian Medtech and Pharma Sector

16 September 2020: IMNIS program expands to cover new areas of health and medical research

22 September 2020: Meet our BTB Round 2 Awardees

22 September 2020: You're Invited to the Launch of Australia's first Antimicrobial Resistance Network

24 September 2020: Australia's first Antimicrobial Resistance Network forms to combat global health threat

29 September 2020: 21 Australian Medtech Companies on the World Stage

30 September 2020: Why Australia is the Destination of Choice for International Medical Device Clinical Trials

Q2

06 October 2020: Second edition of COVID-19 Impact Report now available

07 October 2020: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in September

12 October 2020: New Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Skills Set available

13 October 2020: BTB Funds COVID-19 Research Efforts In Australia

14 October 2020: MTPConnect Welcomes the Launch of the TRI's upgraded Cleanroom Manufacturing Facility & Training Hub

15 October 2020: MTP Workforce Skills Gaps Revealed in New Report

19 October 2020: New appointment for our REDI team

19 October 2020: Watch our on-demand webinar: Why Australia is the Destination of Choice for International Medical Device Clinical Trials

20 October 2020: WA Medical Datathon 2020 Needs You!

21 October 2020: The 2020 Australian Technologies Competition Serves Up Virtual Awards

26 October 2020: 62 Medtech Research Projects Deep Dive into Commercialisation Strategy

27 October 2020: What are the Secrets Behind Preparing A Successful Commercialisation Funding Application? Join Our Webinar!

28 October 2020: Launching Australia's first Industry-Led Regenerative Medicine Catalyst Body to Boost Research and Commercial Opportunities

29 October 2020: TTRA for Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Announces Research Plans and Partners

30 October 2020: Call for Proposals & Information Session for REDI Skills Gap Training Programs

02 November 2020: New Appointment for Our BTB Team

06 November 2020: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in October

09 November 2020: New Appointment to the TTRA Team

10 November 2020: Launching Australia's first Industry-Led Genomics Alliance to Unlock the Power of Precision Medicine

12 November 2020: New MTPConnect Report Identifies Skills Priorities for a Future Ready Workforce

13 November 2020: Call for Proposals Opens for REDI Contestable Program

18 November 2020: GSK Joins REDI with new PhD Graduate Program

30 November 2020: In Case You Missed It: Insights from 'Show Me the Money' Webinar

08 December 2020: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in November

09 December 2020: Call for Industry Sponsors to Apply for REDI Fellowship Funding

09 December 2020: First Round of Bridge & BridgeTech REDI Fellows Announced

Q3

11 January 2021: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in December

12 January 2021: Join the TTRA Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Research Projects Information Session Webinar

12 January 2021: Join the TTRA Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease Research Centres Information Session Webinar

12 January 2021: Funding boost for diabetes and cardiovascular disease research with $38 million available through MTPConnect

05 February 2021: Are You Prepared for Round 11 of the CRC-P Program? Join Our Webinar!

10 February 2021: Australia's first Cardiovascular Device Clinical Trial Collaboration to boost medical device research and innovation

12 February 2021: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in January

16 February 2021: How Ellume Health's COVID-19 Test Broke into the US Market

23 February 2021: BTB News: Starpharma Nasal Spray Registered in Europe Supports COVID-19 Response

26 February 2021: Medical Products Manufacturing Funding Now Available Under The $1.3 Billion Modern Manufacturing Initiative

04 March 2021: Podcast Follows Orthocell's Move into New Markets

05 March 2021: Developing Digital Health Technologies? Join our Webinar!

05 March 2021: Case Study: Connecting the Australian Medical Devices Sector to Fast-Track New Technology

08 March 2021: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in February

09 March 2021: Interested in learning more about the Modern Manufacturing Initiative? Join DISER's Information Session!

10 March 2021: MTPConnect Report Uncovers Skills Priorities for a Future Ready Workforce

11 March 2021: Join our WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series event with Artyra

11 March 2021: New Funding Opportunity For Medical Products Manufacturing

12 March 2021: Register for CRC Association's CRC-P Round 11 Information Session

12 March 2021: Register Now for REDI Funding Round 2 Information Session

12 March 2021: BMTH News: WearOptimo's life-saving Microwearable sensor technology heads into production

12 March 2021: MTPConnect and Monash University connect for Commercialisation training

18 March 2021: REDI initiative awards contracts to ARCS Australia and SeerPharma for workforce skills gap training and education

19 March 2021: MTPConnect Goes to Canberra

24 March 2021: MRFF Funding to Support Development of Australian Medical Devices Through to Early Stage Manufacturing

26 March 2021: BMTH Funding Advances Clinical Program for Bionic Vision Technologies' Bionic Eye

31 March 2021: REDI News: IMNIS Launches New Catalyst Program for Next Generation STEM Professionals

31 March 2021: Australian life sciences companies need to be born global

Q4

01 April 2021: BTB News: Dimerix Prepares to Join COVID-19 Pneumonia Study Across Europe

01 April 2021: BTB News: Starpharma's VIRALEZE Spray Lands in UK

01 April 2021: Join our WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series event with Proteomics International

06 April 2021: Are You Up To the Innovation Challenge?

07 April 2021: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in March

13 April 2021: Are You Looking for Ways to Partner In A Virtual World? Join Our Seminar!

14 April 2021: The 100th Episode of the MTPConnect Podcast Shares Inflazome Success Story

15 April 2021: Become the Next Guest of the Chair

22 April 2021: Antimicrobial resistance – today's silent pandemic and AAMRNet's bold call

26 April 2021: Accelerate your Health Innovation and enter the 2021 Australian Technologies Competition

27 April 2021: Join us in May for the launch of our latest report 'Clinical Trials in Australia'

03 May 2021: Please welcome our new intern Meghana Kulkarni

08 May 2021: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in April

12 May 2021: First REDI Fellowships Awarded to Boost Medical Research Commercialisation Capabilities

13 May 2021: New Funding to Support Medical Products Manufacturing in WA

14 May 2021: REDI News: APR.Intern Helps Genepath with PhD Internship to Fast Track Research

14 May 2021: GSK Australia spring boarding graduate careers with new REDI-supported Graduate Researcher Program

20 May 2021: New Report: Australia's Clinical Trials Sector Shows Healthy Growth

24 May 2021: Join Our WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series Event with Resonance Health

27 May 2021: REDI initiative awards contracts to Biointelect and Cicada Innovations for workforce skills gap training and education

28 May 2021: Industry Genomics Network Alliance Launches Strategic Plan

31 May 2021: Join our June WA MTP Sector Spotlight Series Event

03 June 2021: In Case You Missed It: Here's What The MTPConnect Team Has Been Up To in May

08 June 2021: Introducing Miriam Wallace – Manager Communications and Events

16 June 2021: Successful COSA Tele-Trial Model implemented to help remote cancer patients across Australia

24 June 2021: Let's do more for Australians with diabetes and cardiovascular disease

30 June 2021: Drug Repurposing: Building the Path to Australian Success

Financial Information and Directors' Report

A financial report on MTPConnect

MTP-IIGC LTD
ABN 53 608 571 277

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Directors' Report

MTP-IIGC LTD

For the year ended 30 June 2021

The directors present their report together with the financial statements of MTP-IIGC Ltd ('the Company' or 'the entity') for the year ended 30 June 2021.

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
Dr Alexander Fowkes

Principal activities

During the financial year, the principal activities of the Company were to boost 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.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have had minimal impact on the operations on the Company during the period. Despite working in a remote environment due to restrictions, the Company has been able to continue to achieve its objectives. Management will continue to evaluate and mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the operations of the Company.

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.

Directors' Report

Strategies

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

- Align investment in Knowledge Priorities that meet 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 digital healthcare solutions: devices and data analytics.
- Strengthen Australia as an attractive clinical trial research destination.
- Position Australia as a preferred partner for international markets.
- Support advanced manufacturing as part of the broader Australian innovation ecosystem.

Significant changes in the state of affairs

The Company entered into a Deed of Variation with the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources ('DISER') on 22 April 2021 in relation to the Growth Centre Funding Initiative. The Deed extended the program end date to 30 June 2022 and provided additional funding up to the extended end date to support the Company's business operations.

Other than the above 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.

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 (*Re-elected 20 Nov 2020)**
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.

Sue is currently the Chair of MTPConnect (MTPII-GC Ltd), Chair of Oventus Medical Ltd (ASX:OVN), Chair of TALi Digital Ltd (ASX:TDI), and Non-Executive Director of Palla Pharma Ltd (ASX:PAL), Anatara Lifesciences Ltd (ASX:ANR), Planet Innovation and Omico. Sue is also appointed to several academic and government advisory committees, including the CSIRO Health and Biosecurity Advisory Committee, the Prime Minister's Digital Experts Advisory Committee, DMTC's Medical Countermeasures and various COVID-19 taskforces.

Her broad commercial experience is underpinned by graduate qualifications in pharmacy and post graduate qualifications in corporate governance, commercial law, business administration and marketing. Sue is a Fellow and Chair Health Forum ATSE, Chair Policy Forum ATSE, Fellow ACPP and Fellow/Graduate of AICD. In 2019, Sue was awarded the prestigious AusBiotech and Johnson & Johnson Innovation Industry Leadership Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the MTP sector.

Dr Nicholas Cerneaz
Non-Executive Director (Re-elected 20 Nov 2020)
Dr Cerneaz has been commercialising academic and industrial research for more than two decades. Leveraging his D. Phil (doctorate) in mammography image analysis technologies for managing breast cancer, he has driven 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, advisor to both research and education sector enterprises, and is currently Department/Operations Manager of Australian Astronomical Optics at Macquarie University - a global leader in the design, construction and commissioning of bespoke instrumentation for the world's largest professional astronomy facilities.

Dr Douglas Robertson
Non-Executive Director (Re-elected 20 Nov 2020)
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 $3.9bn 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 20 Nov 2019)
Ms Julie Phillips is Chief Executive Officer and a Director of BioDiem Ltd and Managing Director of BioDiem's subsidiary, Opal Biosciences Ltd. She 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 in clinical trials, regulatory affairs and pharmacoeconomic assessment/pricing of therapeutics was gained in multinational pharmaceutical companies. From 2014-2021 she was Chair of AusBiotech Ltd, the peak biotechnology industry association in Australia.

Julie chairs Innovation and Science Australia's R&D Incentives Committee. She is a member of the University of Newcastle Council, the NH&MRC's Health Innovation Advisory Committee and the SA Premier's Science and 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. Dan also sits on the Expert Advisory Panel for the MRFF Stem Cell Mission. He has a PhD in Cardiovascular Physiology and an MBA.

Dr Grant has previously been a director of several unlisted biotechnology companies and several NFP organisations.

Directors' Report

Alexander Fowkes
Non-Executive Director
Alex Fowkes was the Chief Strategy Officer for WuXi NextCODE, based in Singapore. As a life science executive, he is an experienced leader and thought partner for life science strategy, commercial operations and business development. He has extensive experience in leading strategy development and operational improvement projects within the pharmaceutical, contract research and bioinformatics industries with a core expertise in the strategy, execution and management of strategic partnerships. His specialties are life science strategy & operations, business development and strategic transactions.

Meetings of directors

The number of meetings of the board of the Company during the year ended 30 June 2021 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**
Ms Sue MacLeman	8	8	-	-	1	1
Dr Nicholas Cerneaz	8	8	3	3	-	-
Dr Douglas Robertson	8	6	3	3	-	-
Ms Julie Phillips	8	8	-	-	1	1
Dr Daniel Grant	8	8	-	-	-	-
Dr Alexander Fowkes	8	8	-	-	1	1

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 Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191. The Company is an entity to which the legislative instrument 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-for-profits Commission Act 2012 is included in page 8 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
25 August 2021
Melbourne

Dr Daniel Grant
25 August 2021
Melbourne

Auditor's Independence Declaration

Grant Thornton

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Auditor's Independence Declaration

To the Directors of MTP-IIGC LTD

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, as lead auditor for the audit of MTP-IIGC LTD for the year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been 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, 25 August 2021

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

MTP-IIGC LTD

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Income	Notes	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
		$	$
Grants	2	33,547,207	14,967,040
Interest		5,875	5,177
Other Income		2,500	128,326
Total Income		**33,555,582**	**15,100,543**
Expenses			
Travel and accommodation		32,595	268,462
Accounting, legal & audit		395,703	375,559
Depreciation and amortisation		128,931	103,244
Employment costs		3,815,261	2,796,192
Consulting Fees		49,298	109,284
Corporate communications & sponsorship		377,319	395,976
Office and Administration		210,827	293,875
Sector Support Projects		1,214,715	1,529,220
Project Funding		26,445,953	9,095,228
Total Expenses		32,670,602	14,967,040
Surplus before taxation		**884,980**	**133,503**
Net surplus for the period		**884,980**	**133,503**
Total comprehensive surplus for the period		**884,980**	**133,503**

Statement of Financial Position

MTP-IIGC LTD

As at 30 June 2021

	Notes	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
		$	$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		71,441,077	44,408,629
Trade and other receivables	3	895,346	235,333
Right of Use Asset	4	77,342	138,237
Total Current Assets		72,413,765	44,782,199
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	63,860	47,077
Right of Use Asset	4	-	57,599
Total Non-Current Assets		63,860	104,676
Total Assets		**72,477,625**	**44,886,875**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6	1,057,560	1,386,600
Contract liability	7	69,902,995	42,870,702
Provisions	8	300,097	163,262
Lease liability	4	78,914	152,988
Total Current Liabilities		71,339,566	44,573,552
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	8	17,740	11,937
Lease liability	4	-	66,046
Total Non-Current Liabilities		17,740	77,983
Total Liabilities		**71,357,306**	**44,651,535**
Net Assets		**1,120,320**	**235,340**
Equity			
Current Year Earnings		884,980	133,503
Retained Earnings (Members Funds)		235,340	101,837
Total Equity		**1,120,320**	**235,340**

Statement of Changes in Equity

MTP-IIGC LTD

For the year ended 30 June 2021

Equity	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	$	$
Opening Balance	235,340	101,837
Increases		
Net surplus for the period	884,980	133,503
Total comprehensive surplus for the period	**884,980**	**133,503**
Total Equity	**1,120,320**	**235,340**

Statement of Cash Flows

MTP-IIGC LTD

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	$	$
Cash flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from grants for internal funding and deployment of projects	60,712,000	28,430,000
Payments to suppliers, employees and deployment of projects	(33,543,217)	(15,845,598)
Interest received	5,875	5,177
Cash receipts from other operating activities	-	81,208
Total Cash flows from Operating Activities	**27,174,658**	**12,670,787**
Cash flows from Investing Activities		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(47,763)	(42,515)
Total Cash flows from Investing Activities	**(47,763)**	**(42,515)**
Cash flows from Financing Activities		
Repayment of lease liability	(94,447)	(64,602)
Total Cash flows from Investing Activities	**(94,447)**	**(64,602)**
Net increase in cash held	**27,032,448**	**12,563,670**
Cash Balance		
Opening cash balance	44,408,629	31,844,959
Closing cash balance	**71,441,076**	**44,408,629**

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 1060 - 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 25 August 2021 by the Directors of the Company.

b. New and Revised Accounting Standards Adopted by the Company

The company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australia Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

Other standards not yet applicable
There are no other standards that are not yet effective and that would be expected to have a material impact on the Company in the current or future reporting periods and on foreseeable future transactions.

c. Going Concern

MTP-IIGC LTD is dependent on the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (‘DISER’) for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. The Growth Centre Initiative is scheduled to cease 30 June 2022. As of the date of this report, the Board of Directors are in discussions with DISER to extend the Initiative end date and utilise surplus funds to continue to operate the business. In the event that an extension is not permitted and surplus funds are required to be returned to DISER, MTP-IIGC LTD will cease operations if it cannot secure other sources of revenue.

d. Accounting Policies

i. Revenue

Under AASB15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers, revenue is recognised when a performance obligation is satisfied, being when control of the goods or services underlying the performance obligation is transferred to the customer.

Notes to the Financial Statements

ii. Government grants

Grant income without sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations
Grant funds received by the Company that do not have sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations are recognised as income on receipt of the funds.

Grant revenue with sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations
as revenue, over time, as the Company satisfies its Grant funds received by the Company that have sufficiently specific and enforceable performance obligations, in accordance with AASB 15, are recognised as a contract liability on receipt and are recognised performance obligations.

Fundraising and donation income
Fundraising and donation income are recognised when the Company gains control of the funds and are only recognised as income when the funds have been provided to further the Company's objectives for no consideration or where consideration is significantly less than the funds provided and when the funds provided do not give rise to an obligation.

iii. Interest income
Interest income from a financial asset is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

iv. Other income
Other income consists of sponsorship fees received from the City of Perth towards the WA Life Sciences Sector End of Year Meet-up and is recognised when it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the amount of revenue can be measured reliably.

v. Income of Not-for Profit Entities

The timing of income recognition under AASB 1058 is dependent upon whether the transaction gives rise to a liability or other performance obligation at the time of receipt.

Income under the standard is recognised where:
- an asset is received in a transaction, such as by way of grant, bequest or donation;
- there has either been no consideration transferred, or the consideration paid is significantly less than the asset's fair value; and
- where the intention is to principally enable the entity to further its objectives.

For transfers of financial assets to the entity which enable it to acquire or construct a recognisable nonfinancial asset, the entity must recognise a liability amounting to the excess of the fair value of the transfer received over any related amounts recognised.

Related amounts recognised may relate to:
- contributions by owners;
- AASB 15 revenue or contract liability recognized;
- lease liabilities in accordance with AASB 16;
- financial instruments in accordance with AASB 9; or
- provisions in accordance with AASB 137.

Where the agreements entered into by the Company include conditions that are 'enforceable' and 'sufficiently specific', there will be a contract liability and revenue will be recognised under AASB 15 when (or as) 'performance obligations' are satisfied by the provision of goods or services.

vi. 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.

vii. 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 annual 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 annual 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 (9.5% of the employee's average ordinary salary for the financial year) to the employee's

Notes to the Financial Statements

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.

viii. 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.

ix. 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.

x. Income Tax

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

xi. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company 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.

xii. 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.

xiii. 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.

xiv. 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.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic

Judgement has been exercised in considering the impacts that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has had, or may have, on the Company based on known information. This consideration extends to the nature of the services offered, customers, supply chain, staffing and geographic regions in which the Company operates. Other than as addressed in specific notes, there does not currently appear to be either any significant impact upon the financial statements or any significant uncertainties with respect to events or conditions which may impact the Company unfavorably as at the reporting date or subsequently as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

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.

xv. 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 (i.e. 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 Company 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).

Notes to the Financial Statements

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 Company'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.

xiii. Leases

At inception of a contract the Company assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability are recognised by the Company where the Company is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (i.e. leases with a remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low-value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially, the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at the commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Company uses incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows;

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;
- variable lease payments that depend on index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of purchase options if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;
- lease payments under extension options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of options to terminate the lease.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability less, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date and any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset, whichever is the shortest.

Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the costs of the right-of-use asset reflects that the Company anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

xiv. Reporting period

The current period of the financial statements is from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. Grants

	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	$	$
Grants from DISER	6,169,732	6,979,098
Grants from DOH (BMTH 1)	816,579	2,436,331
Grants from DOH (BMTH 2)	11,283,083	2,126,866
Grants from DOH (BTB)	7,654,856	1,912,316
Grants from DOH (REDI)	5,227,609	1,230,564
Grants from DOH (TTRA)	1,253,906	-
Grants Non-Government - AAMRNet	879,500	-
Grants from WA Government	261,942	281,865
Total	**33,547,207**	**14,967,040**

3. Trade and other receivables

	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	$	$
Prepayments	66,676	49,599
Trade Receivables	115,170	111,626
Income Accrued	-	50,000
Other Receivables	-	24,108
GST Receivable	713,500	-
Total	**895,346**	**235,333**

Notes to the Financial Statements

4. Right of use asset and lease liability

	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
Right of use asset:	**$**	**$**
1. William Street Lease		
Current	-	138,237
Non-current	-	57,599
	-	**195,836**
Carrying value at the beginning of the year	195,836	-
On initial recognition	-	276,474
Depreciation for the year	(57,599)	(80,638)
Balance retired upon termination of the lease	(138,237)	-
Carrying Value at end of period	**-**	**195,836**
2. Cremorne Street Lease		
Current	77,342	-
Non-current	-	-
	77,342	**-**
On initial recognition	117,695	-
Depreciation for the year	(40,352)	-
Carrying Value at end of period	**77,342**	**-**
Lease liability:		
1. William Street Lease		
Current	-	152,988
Non-current	-	66,046
	-	**219,034**
Carrying value at the beginning of the year	219,034	-
On initial recognition	-	276,474
Interest for the year	3,787	7,162
Lease repayments for the year	(66,600)	(64,602)
Balance retired upon termination of lease	(138,237)	-
Gain on termination of lease	(17,984)	-
Carrying value at end of period	**-**	**219,034**
2. Cremorne Street Lease		
Current	78,914	
Non-current	-	
	78,914	
On initial recognition	117,695	-
Interest for the year	2,386	-
Lease repayments for the year	(41,167)	-
Carrying value at end of period	**78,914**	**-**

The William Street lease was terminated on 8 December 2020. Right of use asset and lease liability balances as of this date were retired, with the resultant gain on termination of lease recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Option to extend or terminate

The Company uses hindsight in determining the lease term where the contract contains options to extend or terminate the lease**.**

Property leases

The above right-of-use asset and lease liability relate to office leases entered-into by the Company. The leases have been accounted for in accordance with AASB 16 adopted by the Company on 1 July 2019 under the modified retrospective approach.

The right-of-use asset is measured at the amount equal to the lease liability at initial recognition and then amortised over the life of the lease. The lease liability and ROU asset at initial recognition for the Cremorne Street lease is $117,695.

The right-of-use asset is being depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis which is 12 months for the lease in place as at 30 June 2021. Depreciation expense of $97,951 was charged as an expense over the period (Cremorne Street lease: $40,352 and William Street lease: $57,599).

At initial recognition, the Cremorne Street lease liability was measured as the present value of minimum lease payments using the Company's incremental borrowing rate of 5.03%. The incremental borrowing rate was based on the unsecured interest rate that would apply if finance was sought for an amount and time period equivalent to the lease requirements of the Company. Each lease payment is allocated between the liability and interest expense. An interest expense of $6,173 was charged as an expense over the period (Cremorne Street lease: $2,386 and William Street lease: $3,787.

Notes to the Financial Statements

5. Property, Plant and Equipment

	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	$	$
At Cost	183,477	135,714
Accumulated depreciation	(119,617)	(88,637)
Total	**63,860**	**47,077**

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
	$	$	$
2020			
Balance at the beginning of the period	28,339	300	28,639
Additions at cost	37,473	3,571	37,473
Depreciation expense	(19,035)	(3,571)	(19,035)
Balance at the end of the period	**46,777**	**300**	**47,077**
2021			
Balance at the beginning of the period	46,777	300	47,077
Additions at cost	47,762	-	47,763
Depreciation expense	(30,679)	(300)	(36,979)
Balance at the end of the period	**63,861**	**-**	**63,860**

6. Trade and other payables

	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
	$	$
Trade Creditors	265,790	174,568
Accrued Expenses	715,414	542,265
GST Payable	-	601,863
Other Payables	76,357	67,904
Total	**1,057,560**	**1,386,600**

7. Contract liability

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 2021	30 June 2020
	$	$
Deferred income related to funding received from:		
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources	6,542,688	7,812,420
Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (WA)	924,736	686,680
Department of Health (BioMedTech Horizons Program)	449,465	1,266,044
Department of Health (BioMedTech Horizons 2 Program)	21,556,719	12,839,802
Department of Health (Biomedical Translation Bridge Program)	11,130,901	13,485,756
Department of Health (Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry Program)	11,552,391	6,780,000
Department of Health (Targeted Translation Research Accelerator Program)	17,746,094	-
Total	**69,902,995**	**42,870,702**

8. Provisions

	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
Current – Provision for Annual Leave	287,738	163,262
Current - Provision for Long Service Leave	12,359	-
Non-current – Provision for Long Service Leave	17,740	11,937
Total	**317,837**	**175,199**

9. Income Tax

MTP-IIGC Ltd is exempt from Income Tax as it is a registered charity under Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission**.**

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 Company, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that Company is considered key management personnel ("KMP").

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

Notes to the Financial Statements

12. Other related party transactions

There have been related party transactions during the period ending 30 June 2021 totaling $22,020 exclusive of 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

There are no significant commitments and contingencies at balance date in the current or prior reporting periods.

14. Events after the reporting period

There has not been any matter or circumstance that has arisen since the end of the financial year that has significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Group, the results of these operations, or the state of affairs of the Group in future financial years.

Directors' Declaration

Directors' report

MTP-IIGC LTD
For the year ended 30 June 2021

The directors have determined that the Company is not a reporting entity and that this deduced disclosure financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the Company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, present fairly the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director: Dr Daniel Grant

Director: Ms Sue MacLeman

Sign date: 25 August 2021

Auditor's Report

Grant Thornton

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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 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other 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 accompanying 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 2021 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.

Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon

Management is 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 2021, 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 management and those charged with governance for the financial report

The Directors of the Registered Entity 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 has 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

M A Cunningham
Partner – Audit & Assurance

Melbourne, 25 August 2021

MTPConnect Funded Projects

The following pages provide an overview of projects that MTPConnect has funded and their impact on the sector. More information can be found at mtpconnect.org.au

MTPConnect Funded Projects

MTPConnect has $182million in sector support funds under management, across six strategic funding initiatives:

- The $15.6 million Growth Centre Project Fund
- The $45 million BioMedTech Horizons program
- The $22.3 million Biomedical Translation Bridge program
- The $32 million Researcher Exchange and Development within Industry initiative
- The $47 million Targeted Translation Research Accelerator initiative
- The $19.75 million Clinical Translation and Commercialisation – MedTech program (awarded June 2021)

All MTPConnect projects are detailed below with their description, outcomes, funding amounts and duration. These numbers are accurate as of 31 October 2021. Where a project is shown as finished the values shown are the final audited amounts. Final details may differ from the project applications due to changes in project start dates and project developments. More information can be found at www.mtpconnect.org.au.

MTPConnect Industry Growth Centre Projects

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

Finished Projects

Growth Centre Objective addressed by Project

- Improving collaboration and commercialisation
- Management and workforce skills
- International markets and global value chains
- Regulation reform

Accelerating Australia – Stage 1

Centre for Entrepreneurial Research and Innovation (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: Training was delivered to 194 people who invented 19 new medical technology opportunities. This program received additional funding to assist in a national rollout – see Accelerating Australia – Stage 2 for impact details.

Location: Western Australia
MTPConnect grant: $150,000
Industry contribution: $618,931
Duration: March 2017 – March 2018 (Finished)

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.

Outcomes: Accelerating Australia continues to run programs in Western Australia, South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria, with affiliates in Queensland and Tasmania. Almost 1400 individuals have received commercialisation training resulting in over 160 medical products being developed. There is improved collaboration between universities and companies within each state node.

Location: Western Australia
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $2,870,135
Other government contributions: $5,000
Duration: May 2018 – March 2020 (Finished)

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

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Project description: To develop digital infrastructure to support adaptive clinical trials and 'trial-ready' natural history cohort studies. The open-source solution is specifically intended to facilitate capture of clinical evidence to inform the licensure and funding of new therapeutic products.

Outcomes: The platform has been developed and is being used with three rare disease populations (motor neurone disease, cystic fibrosis and Angelman syndrome). Twelve companies and 194 users are using the platform.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $200,000
Industry contribution: $446,072
Duration: June 2018 – November 2020 (Finished)

ANDHealth Digital Health

ANDHealth

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

Outcomes: The 10 ANDHealth+ cohort companies have raised $16.6M in dilutive and non-dilutive funding in FY2021, with 47 projects launched and 98 jobs recruited this year. ANDHealth has continued to be supported by the TTRA and REDI programs.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,150,000
Industry contribution: $5,153,903
Duration: June 2017 – December 2019 (Finished)

ASIALINK

Asialink Business

Project description: Developed 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: Both guides have been launched and well received. The guides were launched at information seminars with panel events discussing the subject. Both events are available as podcast downloads on MTPConnect website.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $193,424
Industry contribution: $193,424
Duration: April 2019 – March 2020 (Finished)

Australia-China Life Sciences Partnership Program

AusBiotech Ltd

Project description: The Australia-China Life Sciences Partnership Program aimed to increase awareness, and thus, opportunities for communication, collaboration and commercialisation between the life sciences sectors in Australia and China.

Outcomes: A free-to-use database was generated. Uptake was lower than expected and the project was terminated.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $111,590
Industry contribution: $111,590
Duration: February 2018 – February 2020 (Terminated)

Australian Centre for Commercialisation of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) – Stage 1

Monash University

Project description: CCRM Australia, an Australian hub of Canada's Centre for Commercialisation of Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) supports the development of foundational technologies to accelerate the commercialisation of regenerative medicine products and therapies.

Outcomes: During the project ten regenerative medicine product companies started collaborating internationally and five collaboration events were held with over 500 attendees.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $200,000
Industry contribution: $358,382
Other government contributions: $150,000
Duration: March 2017 – February 2019 (Finished)

Australian Centre of Commercialisation for Regenerative Medicine (CCRM) – Stage 2

Monash University

Project description: To accelerate the commercialisation 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: Since project completion CCRM has received additional sector partnering requests, assisted in facilitating access to research infrastructure for local industry and created an internship program focused on the commercialisation of regenerative medicine -which is accessible to Masters and PhD students from any Australian University.

BioFab3D@ACMD

St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne

Project description: A robotics and biomedical engineering centre, embedded within a hospital. Researchers, clinicians, engineers and industry partners will work alongside each other to build biological structures such as organs, bones, brain, muscle, nerves and glands.

Outcomes: During 2021 the BioFab consortium have collaborated on 14 successful grant application, totalling over $3 million dollars. Going forward, the BioFab model will serve as a template for the Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery (ACMD) when it opens in 2024. ACMD will expand the model further and on a larger scale with 9 partners co-locating in one building to produce personalised treatment in the area of osteoarthritis, epilepsy, muscle and nerve regeneration.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,100,000
Industry contribution: $1,274,864
Duration: March 2017 – March 2018 (Finished)

Finished Projects (continued)

Growth Centre Objective addressed by Project

- Improving collaboration and commercialisation
- Management and workforce skills
- International markets and global value chains
- Regulation reform

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 are complete, with industry partners engaged. At least eight children are recruited to a pilot project investigating biofabrication of ears. Support from the Queensland Government will help establish four specialist teams within the centre.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $100,000
Industry contribution: $1,614,000
Other government contributions: $100,000
Duration: June 2017 – October 2019 (Finished)

Clinical Trial : Impact and Quality (CT:IQ)

Bellberry Ltd

Project description: A 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 complete, including clinical trial design and electronic consent. The CT:IQ membership now represents over 100 individuals from over 65 companies. CT:IQ has delivered 36 events to over 3900 people.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $370,000
Industry contribution: $850,455
Other government contributions: $3,000
Duration: January 2018 – March 2021 (Finished)

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 facilitate direct patient recruitment and engage the general practice sector.

Outcomes: Fifty-Two GP's attended educations 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. No progress has been made in this work since the project conclusion due to the labour-intensive work needed and the lack of funds to facilitate this.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $144,749
Industry contribution: $144,749
Duration: February 2018 – August 2018 (Finished)

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. This project developed a new IT platform to integrate the 19 derivative apps into one ANZCTR linked database with new search functions and electronic referrals.

Outcomes: ClinTrial Refer is disrupting the way in which referral and recruitment to clinical trials is managed. The App now has over 3000 users with 1600 clinical trials entered in over 700 locations.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $313,000
Industry contribution: $583,677
Duration: March 2018 – November 2019 (Finished)

Comprehensive Global Investment

AusBiotech Ltd

Project description: Development of an investment education program through the development of two educational guides and promotional events and training for the Australian life science sector.

Outcomes: Despite the COVID-19 global pandemic, IPO activity increased markedly in the MTP sector. This rise saw the publication 'Roadmap to a successful IPO for life science companies' gain attention during the period which prompted a review of outdated information and a relaunch of the guide.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $398,043
Industry contribution: $400,000
Duration: February 2017 – January 2019 (Finished)

CRITERIA – Building clinical trial capability and capacity.

ARCS Australia Ltd

Project description: This project aims to connect MTP companies with appropriately trained graduates to equip them with job ready skills to meet the skills gap in clinical trial coordination.

Outcomes: ARCS have trained 52 graduates in all aspects of pharmaceutical medicine and clinical research through 44 training events. 40 graduates of the CRITERIA program now have jobs within the clinical trial industry.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $250,000
Industry contribution: $260,422
Duration: March 2018 – December 2019 (Finished)

Enabling precision cancer clinical trials for SME's.

The Garvan Institute of Medical Research

Project description: To 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: This project successfully developed a comprehensive genome profiling platform to enable precision cancer medicine. The platform has been successfully transferred to SydPath enabling sector wide access. The project has held 13 training and information events, promoting the potential of the test to over 450 individuals.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $316,256
Industry contribution: $338,820
Duration: April 2018 – March 2020 (Finished)

Establishment of an early-stage product manufacturing facility and training hub

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 MedTech concepts into products for clinical studies.

Outcomes: The manufacturing facility at TRI is now operational with over 25 individuals and 4 companies using the facility, over 15 new enquiries and a commitment of $20million from the Queensland government to support a larger facility to further scale manufacturing to later stage clinical trials.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $499,990
Industry contribution: $1,300,845
Duration: February 2018 – February 2020 (Finished)

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) with an ultra-high throughput screening facility and a state-of-the-art software platform for in silico drug discovery.

Outcomes: Working copies of the ALIDC library (315,000 compounds) have been purchased and stored at Compounds Australia. They have been used for more than 15 projects by teams at the member institutes. A complete reformat of the library is underway to generate focused library sub-sets and facilitate accessibility by the wider research community.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,100,000
Industry contribution: $2,044,302
Duration: August 2017 – June 2019 (Finished)

Industry Mentoring Network in STEM (IMNIS) program – Stage 1

ATSE

Project description: Aiming to narrow the cultural gap that exists in Australia between business and academia. This project will develop a national mentoring program linking PhD students with qualified industry mentors.

Outcomes: Four hundred industry knowledgeable PhD students have been trained. Over 80% of mentees were maintaining contact with their industry mentor after their one-year program has ended.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $187,390
Industry contribution: $895,568
Duration: January 2017 – December 2018 (Finished)

Installation of robotic sterile clinical trial manufacturing capability

Pharmaceutical Packaging Professionals Pty Ltd

Project description: This project was to develop a fully robotic, sterile vial-filling line to manufacture Phase II and III products.

Outcomes: Project was terminated due to lack of progress due to company relocation.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $50,000
Industry contribution: $192,250
Duration: February 2018 – June 2019 (Terminated)

Finished Projects (continued)

Growth Centre Objective addressed by Project

- Improving collaboration and commercialisation
- Management and workforce skills
- International markets and global value chains
- Regulation reform

Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) – Stage 1

Flinders University

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

Outcomes: This program received additional funding to assist in a national rollout – see Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) – Stage 2 for impact details.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $150,000
Industry contribution: $174,000
Duration: April 2017 – June 2018 (Finished)

Medical Device Partnering Program (MDPP) National Expansion – Stage 2

Flinders University

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: MTPConnect support of this project enabled MDPP to win a $2 million dollar project grant from LaunchVic to run the MDPP Ideas Incubator in Victoria for 2 years. MDPP consulted with 100 clients to provide detailed clinical, technical, and commercial evaluations of 131 different ideas/technologies. The team then delivered 47 workshops for the most promising ideas, progressing 7 new products with one now at clinical trial. During the project MDPP launched a sector directory with over 2650 companies profiled, enabling sector collaborations. MDPP has continued to be supported through BTB, TTRA and REDI.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $290,000
Industry contribution: $1,146,823
Duration: July 2018 – November 2020 (Finished)

Microscopy Australia – Technical Voucher Fund

University of Sydney

Project description: The scheme funded vouchers to support MedTech R&D by providing easy and discounted access to microscopy services. It was intended to reduce barriers and provide industry with access to analytical tools and Microscopy Australia's experts.

Outcomes: Six vouchers have been issued to SME's, progressing product varying from drug discovery to medicinal cannabis and supporting clinical trials within Australia. Five Microscopy Australia sites from around the country were involved in the project.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $110,837
Industry contribution: $330,144
Duration: April 2018 – March 2021 (Finished)

National MTP+D Live Showcase

Health-Innovate Pty Ltd

Project description: To catalogue and track publicly exposed MTPD (MedTech, Pharma and Digital) innovations under development in Australia. The catalogue will be publicly and globally accessible and kept up to date using a humanised machine learning system.

Outcomes: The Health Horizon platform now features over 1800 technologies, has 60 client companies and over 3000 users. Technologies are tracked through automated processes of publicly available information.

Location: Australian Capital Territory
MTPConnect grant: $100,000
Industry contribution: $124,791
Duration: January 2018 – November 2018 (Finished)

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 national 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: The project has developed national tele trial principles and standard operating procedures for clinical trials and tele trials. These documents have been endorsed by all states and territories, together with the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). At project commencement there were no tele-trials open within Australia. 24 sites with 150 patients have now participated in tele-trials. In October 2020, the project received a $75.2 million Federal Government grant to expand their work and 'give patients access to clinical trials where they live'.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $115,000
Industry contribution: $297,233
Duration: August 2017 – September 2020 (Finished)

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

University of Wollongong

Project description: To create a facility to expedite the development of commercial opportunities in 3D bioprinting. It will provide the technical expertise and facilities to enable the development of biomaterials, formulations of bioinks and customised bioprinting systems.

Outcomes: A new facility (TRICEP – Translational Research Initiative of Cellular Engineering and Printing) has been established at Wollongong. Fourteen new technologies are being progressed, including 3D printed skin for burns victims and ear cartilage regeneration – allowing patient specific implants using their own stem cells.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $400,000
Industry contribution: $1,115,134
Duration: March 2018 – August 2019 (Finished)

The Bridge program

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Project description: A consortium of 15 companies, universities and industry associations that aimed to transfer practical skills on pharmaceutical commercialisation through online and residential training in drug discovery and development.

Outcomes: Since commencement in 2017 the Bridge program has now delivered 4 cohorts of trainees. Together the Bridge and Bridge Tech program has resulted in 31 patents, 29 start-up companies and 26 clinical trials. Now supported by the BTB program.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $576,157
Industry contribution: $1,109,748
Duration: January 2017 – December 2019 (Finished)

The Bridge Tech program

Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Project description: The Bridge Tech program will provide 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: Since commencement in 2018 the BridgeTech program has now delivered 3 cohorts of trainees. Together the Bridge and Bridge Tech program has resulted in 31 patents, 29 start-up companies and 26 clinical trials. Now supported by the BTB program.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $294,035
Industry contribution: $742,323
Duration: April 2018 – September 2019 (Finished)

The MedTech Actuator

The Actuator Operations

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

Outcomes: 74 start-ups have been supported, creating 174 new jobs. $42million of start-up investment has been raised by cohort companies. Also supported by REDI.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,100,000
Industry contribution: $3,171,755
Duration: March 2017 – March 2019 (Finished)

Training programs for the biologics and biomedical-based industry sector

Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, the University of Queensland

Project description: The project created training programs for industry associated with the R&D and advanced manufacturing of biologic medicines and more broadly for industry associated with biomedical sciences.

Outcomes: Six hundred and seventy participants received training during the project, this was a mixture of in-person training and access to an e-learning platform.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $110,000
Industry contribution: $110,000
Duration: May 2018 – February 2020 (Finished)

Vaccine research in Australia: Landscaping capabilities and services

Vaxine

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

Outcomes: A better-connected Australian vaccine community, engaging through events and in person. Ten events have been held with over 350 attendees. Two products have been developed. One product was successful in winning a Biomedical Translation Bridge (BTB) grant.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $250,000
Industry contribution: $371,697
Duration: March 2017 – May 2018 (Finished)

Ongoing Projects

Growth Centre Objective addressed by Project

- Improving collaboration and commercialisation
- Management and workforce skills
- International markets and global value chains
- Regulation reform

An AI digital health platform for cardiovascular clinical decision support.

Integrated Cardiovascular Clinical Network (iCCnet)

To implement a cloud-based artificial intelligence (AI) digital health platform to automate best practice clinical guidelines and deliver real-time guidance to clinical decision makers. The initial clinical focus will be on chronic disease services in rural/remote South Australia; however, the infrastructure will be commercially scalable to other diseases, across Australia and beyond.

Outcomes: Over the last 12 months, the program has been comparing AI intervention compared to manual intervention in more than 3000 cases. Patients were relatively stable over the 12 months of monitoring which meant that it was not possible to draw statistically significant results, however early data shows promising results that the clinically derived algorithms can allow scale up of home monitoring software.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $256,000
Industry contribution: $256,000
Duration: April 2018 – July 2021 (Final report and Audit underway)

Australian Anti-Microbial Resistance Network (AAMRNet)

MTPConnect

The formation of an Australian-first network bringing together key stakeholders to address the impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) on human health.

Outcomes: The project now has 15 consortium, has presented to the parliamentary inquiry into approval processes for new drugs and medical technologies in Australia. Progressing an AMR accelerator as well as a report to estimate the real human health impacts of AMR in Australia.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $400,000
Industry contribution: $437,500
Duration: September 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

Australian Cardio Vascular Alliance (ACvA)

Australian Cardiovascular Alliance

To map the capabilities and resources specifically available to support cardiovascular MedTech development in Australia. The Project will also develop a clinical trial service to support local and international research groups to set up cardiovascular clinical trials for medical devices in Australia.

Outcomes: The searchable portal for the cardiovascular clinical trial and testing sector has been developed. The project is in discussions with companies regarding test cardiovascular projects to refine the service offerings and identify any additional gaps.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $109,545
Industry contribution: $109,545
Duration: February 2021 – February 2022 (Ongoing)

Certara-Monash University Industry Fellowship Program

Certara Australia

The Certara-Monash Fellowship Program in drug development and pharmaceutical science will identify and develop the next generation of pharmaceutical scientists. The program will involve a combination of academic coursework, hands-on industry training and research.

Outcomes: All five postdoctoral fellows have now been appointed. Feedback from academic and industry mentors is positive with respect to the skills being learnt by the fellows and their impact on the projects they are involved in. One fellow was recruited from the program to work within industry.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $750,000
Industry contribution: $1,469,609
Duration: April 2019 – October 2021 (Ongoing)

Formulation and GMP product manufacturing services for clinical trials in Australia

The University of Sydney

To establish a manufacturing and training facility that provides cost-effective pharmaceutical manufacturing solutions for SME's, academics, clinicians and larger pharma for early-phase clinical trials in Australia.

Outcomes: Facility has been built and is waiting for the final equipment and hand-over. Nine staff have been employed. The facility will progress TGA certification once complete.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $500,000
Industry contribution: $716,198
Other government contributions: $200,000
Duration: July 2018 – October 2021 (Ongoing)

Genomics National Alliance (InGeNA)

The Australasian Institute of Digital Health (AIDH)

This project addresses the need for a central group to represent Industry across the genomics value chain including diagnostics, bioinformatics, data and technology.

Outcomes: The project now has 18 industry members and held a national genomics conference in June 2021, as well a monthly webinar series. A series of report are being developed focusing on data, the value of genomics, workforce, access and equity.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $300,000
Industry contribution: $300,000
Duration: October 2020 – February 2022 (Ongoing)

IMNIS Stage 2

ATSE

To continue with PhD mentoring activities, develop an alumni program of mentees for ongoing development and pilot rural and remote mentoring.

Outcomes: This IMNIS program has connected over 477 students from 16 universities to an industry mentor. The rural pilot has been positive, with six mentees from JCU and CQU in Queensland connecting with mentors remotely. 60 mentees have gained employment or internships in industry. 80% of mentees responding to a survey said that they were keen or considering collaborating with business or industry during their research.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $215,000
Industry contribution: $373,374
Duration: May 2019 – October 2021 (Ongoing)

Regenerative Medicine (RM) Catalyst Body

AusBiotech

This project will build on the Regenerative Medicine Advisory Group report, 'Regenerative medicine: Opportunities for Australia' (MTPConnect and LEK, 2018) and investigate and analyse the Regenerative medicine sector in all four Industry Growth Centre (IGC) pillars.

Outcomes: The project is developing reports and white papers investigating solutions to RM sector challenges and benchmarking the current landscape.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $300,000
Industry contribution: $300,000
Duration: September 2020 – September 2021 (Ongoing)

Upgrade CSIRO protein production platform

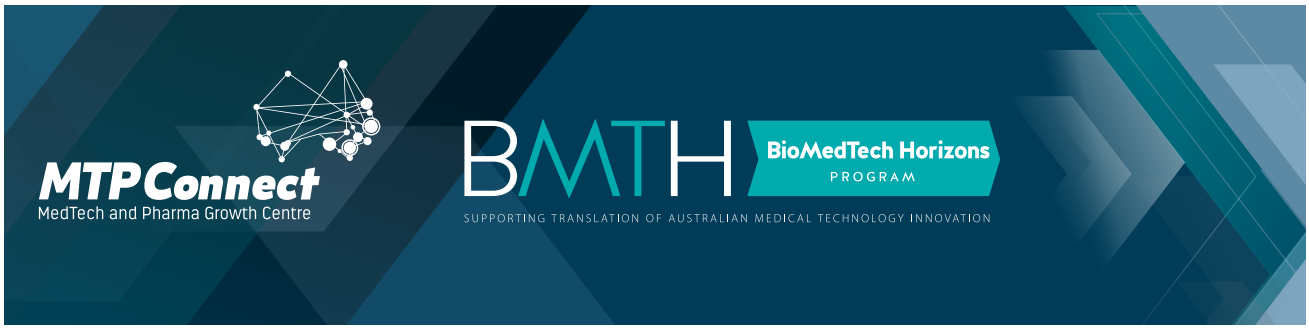
CSIRO

To upgrade the CSIRO (Clayton) protein production platform to human GMP capability for pilot-scale volumes for a variety of expression systems. The facility will include a training program for postgraduate study.

Outcomes: This project will deliver and commission the equipment for the facility to produce small volumes of cells for Phase II and Phase III human clinical trials. Production is underway and the facility is almost complete.

Location: Australian Capital Territory
MTPConnect grant: $1,100,000
Industry contribution: $1,850,000
Other government contributions: $750,000
Duration: August 2019 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

MRFF-Funded Projects



BioMedTech Horizons (BMTH) Program
BMTH Round 1

Allegra Orthopaedics Ltd. (ASX:AMT)

To develop the B3D Cervical Interbody Fusion Device: a synthetic spinal cage to assist with spinal fusions following injury

Outcomes: Allegra has achieved ISO 13485 certification and can now be the legal manufacturer of the spinal cages. The team has also determined the packaging and sterilisation method for the product and confirmed optimal storge conditions and a five-year shelf life. The final pilot study was successful with all implanted cages demonstrating complete fusion at the implanted sights.

Location: **New** South Wales
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $1,141,500
Industry contribution: $4,953,165
Duration: May 2018 – July 2021 (Finished)

Anatomics Pty. Ltd.

To develop and commercialise a porous polyethylene implant material, 'StarPore', for cranio-maxillofacial (CMF) implants.

Outcomes: Anatomics successfully Finished all activities for this project in June 2020 and fully realised their original aim of developing high-end 3D printing and software to enable the efficient and scalable production of StarPore craniofacial implants. This included opening a new production facility, commissioning a SLS 3D printer and introducing an in-house, ISO 13485 certified sterilisation process.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $891,500
Industry contribution: $1,047,446
Duration: July 2018 – June 2020 (Finished)

Bionics Institute

To develop Ear Genie: an innovative system for personalised management of hearing impairment for children enabling life-long benefits.

Outcomes: Bionics Institute has finished the Speech Module of the EarGenie. This system objectively assesses whether an infant can hear speech and also whether an infant can discriminate between two different speech sounds.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $966,500
Industry contribution: $2,935,387
Duration: May 2018 – July 2021 (Finished)

Biotech Resources Pty. Ltd.

To develop a rapid diagnostic test for the pathogens that cause sepsis.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $33,382
Industry contribution: $53,396
Duration: May 2018 – July 2019 (Terminated)

Carina Biotech Pty. Ltd.

To develop CAR-T immunotherapies for the treatment of solid cancers.

Outcomes: Carina Biotech fully realised the original aim to achieve in vivo proof-of-concept for nfP2X7 CAR-T cells across multiple models of human solid cancers. This allowed them to develop a commercial relationship with Biosceptre who plan to take nfP2X7-targeted CAR-T cells into clinical trials for solid cancers.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $948,500
Industry contribution: $1,637,731
Duration: May 2018 – December 2020 (Finished)

Garvan Institute of Medical Research

To advance a clinically accredited and commercial-ready genome profiling platform to enable precision cancer medicine.

Outcomes: The Oncomine Cancer Genomics platform has been developed and fully validated and was sold to SydPath who will offer the service to patients

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $815,939
Industry contribution: $848,063
Duration: May 2018 – March 2021 (Finished)

Griffith University

To develop a 3D printed graft for surgical repair of the scapholunate interosseous wrist ligament (SLIL).

Outcomes: The Griffith Team were able to progress the design concept, manufacturing method and installation process. The SLIL product is now progressing to clinical trial.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $964,227
Industry contribution: $272,247
Duration: May 2018 – July 2021 (Finished)

Indee Labs Pty. Ltd.

To optimise a microfluidic gene delivery device for immune cell modification for clinical use.

Outcomes: Indee finalised their bench-top product and have generated over Industry contribution: $1 million in revenue from top tier pharmaceutical companies.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $891,500
Industry contribution: $60,080
Duration: May 2018 – June 2020 (Finished)

Monash University

To develop a brain-machine interface prothesis to restore functional vision in blind individuals.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $292,801
Industry contribution: $575,148
Duration: May 2018 – January 2020 (Terminated)

The University of Melbourne

To develop Axcelda Pen: a surgical bioprinting technique to deliver a patient's own stem cells to the point of need for the treatment of cartilage injuries.

Outcomes: Technical progress was significant during the project with a final clinical trial demonstrating that the approach represents a superior cartilage repair strategy compared with the current microfracture treatment standard.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $956,943
Industry contribution: $748,529
Duration: July 2018 – December 2020 (Finished)

WearOptimo

To develop microwearables: minimally invasive sensors applied to the skin, for detection of biomarkers and biosignals.

Outcomes: Microwearables have been validated for hydration and troponin-sensing. The company has secured Industry contribution: $30 million to manufacture its smart sensor technology at an advanced technology facility in Brisbane – for worldwide distribution.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: Industry contribution: $891,500
Industry contribution: $1,591,500
July 2018 – October 2019 (Finished)

BMTH Round 2

Cyban Pty Ltd

To develop a novel brain pulse oximeter to monitor brain oxygen levels following traumatic brain injury.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $960,000
Industry contribution: $750,000
Duration: April 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Kunovus

To develop an elastomeric motion-preserving implant to treat lumbar spine osteoarthritis as an alternative to fusion.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $998,600
Industry contribution: $880,063
Duration: April 2020 – March 2022 (Ongoing)

Macuject Pty Ltd

To develop artificial intelligence-based clinical decision support software for intravitreal management of age-related macular degeneration.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $948,000
Industry contribution: $1,060,000
Duration: April 2020 – March 2022 (Ongoing)

Advanced Genetic Diagnostics Pty Ltd

To develop genetic tests to identify people at high risk of heart disease.

Location: Western Australia
MTPConnect grant: $998,802
Industry contribution: $583,765
Duration: April 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

IntelliDesign Pty Ltd

To develop portable bedside low-field magnetic resonance imaging.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $999,999
Industry contribution: $350,000
Duration: April 2020 – March 2022 (Ongoing)

BMTH (continued)

PolyActiva Pty Ltd

To develop sustained release ocular implants for delivery of steroids and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications to the eye for the prevention and treatment of macular oedema.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $2,394,381
Duration: April 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

IDE Group

To develop a control sleeve for intravitreal injection systems.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $988,768
Duration: April 2020 – March 2022 (Ongoing)

WearOptimo

To advance cardiac microwearables for rapid, minimally invasive personalised cardiovascular medicine.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $983,127
Industry contribution: $2,452,000
Duration: April 2020 – March 2022 (Ongoing)

Enlighten Imaging Pty Ltd

To develop a novel hyperspectral retinal imaging platform for next generation artificial intelligence diagnostics.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $1,650,000
Duration: April 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

BMTH Round 3

Anatomics Pty Ltd

To develop digitally enabled skullcaps to monitor brain swelling in craniectomy patients to optimise timing of skull reconstruction surgery.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $997,920
Industry contribution: $332,229
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Anisop Holdings Pty Ltd

To develop a nano-optimised surface to prevent orthopaedic and dental implant infections.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $750,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Apollo Medical Imaging Technology Pty Ltd

To develop an artificial intelligence-based clinical decision support software for guided acute stroke therapy.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $346,500
Industry contribution: $505,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Artrya Pty Ltd (ASX:AYA)

To develop artificial intelligence methods for evaluating cardiac CT angiography and high-risk imaging biomarkers.

Location: Western Australia
MTPConnect grant: $987,428
Industry contribution: $540,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Atmo Biosciences Pty Ltd

To develop an application of Atmo ingestible gas-sensing capsule to diagnose Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) and Small Intestinal Bacterial Overgrowth (SIBO).

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $620,000
Industry contribution: $650,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Bionic Vision Technologies Pty Ltd

To develop an implantable vision system and algorithm in its Bionic Eye Generation 3 device to restore functional vision for blind patients.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $1,289,862
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Carbon Cybernetics

To develop a high-resolution cortical recording of the brain for the prediction and prevention of epileptic seizures.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $999,676
Industry contribution: $313,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Ear Science Institute Australia

To advance the commercialisation of its ClearDrum® device, which is an acoustically optimised silk fibroin implant for the treatment of chronic middle ear disease.

Location: Western Australia
MTPConnect grant: $993,500
Industry contribution: $348,915
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Ferronova Pty Ltd

To improve colorectal cancer outcomes with hybrid cancer tracers.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $826,000
Industry contribution: $1,620,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Hemideina

To develop a miniature, low-energy wireless power and data transmission system for implantable medical devices.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $660,520
Industry contribution: $532,003
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Inventia Life Science Pty Ltd

To develop a 3D bioprinting system for intraoperative skin regeneration.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $1,134,033
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Merunova Pty Ltd

To develop an augmented digital reconstruction and re-visualisation of spine MRI for the personalised diagnosis of back pain.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $976,989
Industry contribution: $132,680
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Miniprobes Pty Ltd

To develop a smart brain biopsy needle for faster, safer neurosurgery.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $1,345,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Neuromersiv Pty Ltd

To advance the commercialisation of its hand and arm wearable device for use with the Neuromersiv virtual reality rehabilitation system.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $994,000
Industry contribution: $514,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Northern Research Pty Ltd

To advance the commercialisation of its PulseVAD pulsatile rotary blood pump that is designed to treat patients suffering from a form of Congestive Heart Failure (CHF) for which, at present, there is no effective treatment.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $170,000
Industry contribution: $11,800
Duration: October 2020 – May 2021 (Terminated)

OncoRes Medical Pty Ltd

To develop compact wireless technology for improvement in accuracy during breast conserving surgery.

Location: Western Australia
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $231,582
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

OptiScan Pty Ltd (ASX:OIL)

To develop its non-invasive confocal endomicroscopy system to enhance oral cancer screening and surgical margin assessment.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $971,000
Industry contribution: $480,186
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Seer Medical

To develop personalised epilepsy treatment via mobile and wearable monitoring.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $658,070
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Synchron Australia Pty Ltd

To advance the commercialisation of its Stentrode: a minimally invasive brain-computer interface being designed to enable people with paralysis to restore functional independence by engaging in activities of daily living – such as email communication, text messaging and online shopping – by controlling apps and external devices through thought alone, and without requiring open brain surgery.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $990,000
Industry contribution: $990,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

BMTH (continued)

VenstraMedical Pty Ltd

To enhance the development of a transcatheter blood pump system for Cardiogenic Shock and Hemodynamically Compromised patients

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $850,000
Industry contribution: $56,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

ZiP Diagnostics

To establish domestic capabilities for combined R&D and manufacture of point-of-care diagnostics.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $600,000
Industry contribution: $3,100,000
Duration: October 2020 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

BMTH Round 4
(announced 23 September 2021)

Aria Research Pty Ltd

To develop a non-invasive bionic vision wearable development prototype for blind and vision impaired people.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $800,000
Industry contribution: $1,094,263
Duration: October 2021 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

ResusRight Pty Ltd

To advance the 'Juno': a novel ventilation monitoring system for neonatal resuscitation.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $800,000
Industry contribution: $833,995
Duration: October 2021 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Seer Medical

To develop 'Sense Cardiac': a cloud enabled wearable cardiac monitor for at-home use.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $800,000
Industry contribution: $1,215,000
Duration: October 2021 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

VitalTrace Pty Ltd

To advance a precision real-time fetal biosensor for the prevention of stillbirth and fetal complications during childbirth.

Location: Western Australia
MTPConnect grant: $800,000
Industry contribution: $1,175,962
Duration: October 2021 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

3DMorphic Pty Ltd

To establish personalised spinal surgery for Australians; a clinical trial of 3DMorphic's advanced manufactured patient-specific spinal fusion devices.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $800,000
Industry contribution: $800,000
Duration: October 2021 – September 2022 (Ongoing)

Biomedical Translation Bridge (BTB) Program

BTB Round 1

AdAlta Limited (ASX:1AD)

To develop clinical imaging of the cell surface receptor CXCR4 in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) patients. IPF is a progressive lung disease consisting of recurring inflammation and damage that causes the lung to stiffen, making it hard to breathe.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $985,167
Industry contribution: $2,340,167
Duration: February 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

Australian National University

To develop rapid and objective eye and brain testing for better management of ophthalmic and neurological diseases.

Location: Australian Capital Territory
MTPConnect grant: $705,944
Industry contribution: $4,105,944
Duration: February 2020 – March 2022 (Ongoing)

DBS Technologies Pty Ltd

To develop an innovative device providing adaptive deep brain stimulation for people with Parkinson's disease.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $2,347,539
Duration: April 2020 – March 2022 (Ongoing)

MycRx Pty Ltd

Outcomes: To develop novel, small molecule therapeutics for the treatment of lung cancer.

MycRx built a comprehensive dataset optimising existing late lead compounds to candidate selection: safe and effective Myc inhibitors with potent and selective activity, good PK properties in rodents, including oral bioavailability. In addition, the comprehensive dataset generated has resulted in a high-quality data package for commercialisation discussions with potential pharma and biotech partners as well as international venture capital firms.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $900,000
Industry contribution: $1,698,000
Duration: February 2020 – June 2021 (Finished)

Noisy Guts Pty Ltd

To develop a non-invasive acoustic belt that uses artificial intelligence to decode gut noises to accurately diagnose and monitor common gut disorders such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome.

Location: Western Australia
MTPConnect grant: $260,186
Industry contribution: $546,779
Duration: March 2020 – March 2021 (Terminated)

SpeeDx Pty Ltd

To commercialise its ResistancePlus® MABSC/MAC test – a rapid in vitro diagnostic tool to accurately and quickly identify bacterial infections related to cystic fibrosis, while using gene markers to predict antibiotic susceptibility or resistance.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $358,922
Industry contribution: $388,922
Duration: April 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

The University of Melbourne – Melbourne Dental School

To progress a novel dental implant to commercialisation.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $100,000
Industry contribution: $967,096
Duration: February 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

Vast Bioscience

To develop 3D small molecule sodium channel inhibitors for the treatment of post-surgical pain

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $822,452
Industry contribution: $1,665,712
Duration: February 2020 – December 2021 (Ongoing)

BTB (continued)

BTB Round 2

BARD1 Life Sciences Limited (ASX:BD1)

To develop a novel high-throughput SubB2M-based liquid biopsy blood test for breast cancer screening and monitoring based on a unique cancer-specific probe

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $372,654
Industry contribution: $863,654
Duration: September 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

Cincera Therapeutics Pty Ltd

To develop a new drug treatment for metabolic and fibrotic disease.

Location: Victoria/South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $2,089,325
Duration: July 2020 – September 2021 (Ongoing)

Envision Sciences Pty Ltd

To develop diagnosis and prognostic detection methods for prostate cancer, using blood and tissue samples

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $1,333,330
Duration: September 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

LBT Innovations Limited (ASX:LBT)

To develop APAS®-AMR: an Automated Plate Assessment System for Antimicrobial Resistance using artificial intelligence.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $748,000
Industry contribution: $1,009,518
Duration: September 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

Pharmaxis Ltd (ASX:PXS)

To develop compound PXS-4699 with tailored dual action to treat Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $871,962
Industry contribution: $1,421,962
Duration: September 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

The University of Adelaide

To develop a world-first needle-free Zika virus vaccine.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $675,500
Industry contribution: $675,500
Duration: October 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

The Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health

To develop a device for guiding therapy in ataxia and imbalance.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $500,000
Industry contribution: $945,505
Duration: September 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

UniQuest Pty Ltd

To develop first-in-class drug candidates for the treatment of prostate and other cancers.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $989,140
Industry contribution: $1,545,343
Duration: July 2020 – June 2022 (Ongoing)

BTB Round 3 – focus on COVID-19

Dimerix (ASX:DXB)

To develop a new treatment for respiratory complications resulting from COVID-19 in a global clinical study with a potential fast-track pathway to clinical practice.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $4,000,000
Duration: September 2020 – November 2021 (Ongoing)

Starpharma Pty Ltd (ASX:SPL)

To develop an intranasal spray, utilising an already-marketed, broad-spectrum antiviral dendrimer for COVID-19 and potential use in future pandemics.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $1,843,000
Duration: September 2020 – August 2021 (Final report and Audit underway)

SpeeDx Pty Ltd

To develop the InSignia™ Respiratory Virus Host Response test – a rapid-response COVID-19 assay to enhance Australia's current and future pandemic preparedness

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $531,411
Industry contribution: $771,411
Duration: November 2020 – March 2022 (Ongoing)

The University of Melbourne

To develop a novel ventilated hood for patient isolation to provide better patient respiratory treatment and protect hospital staff from COVID-19.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $605,000
Industry contribution: $1,603,988
Duration: September 2020 – December 2021 (Ongoing)

Vaxine Pty Ltd

To develop an Australian COVID-19 vaccine, COVAX-19®, which comprises a recombinant spike protein antigen formulated with Vaxine's proprietary Advax™ adjuvant.

Location: South Australia
MTPConnect grant: $1,000,000
Industry contribution: $6,259,832
Duration: December 2020 – September 2021 (Final report and Audit underway)

Targeted Translation Research Accelerator (TTRA) Program

TTRA Round 1 Research Projects (announced 23 September 2021)

Deakin University

To determine the effectiveness and scalability of Low Intensity mental health Support via a Telehealth Enabled Network (LISTEN) for adults with diabetes and CVD.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $748,384
Industry contribution: $789,317
Duration: December 2021 – November 2023 (Ongoing)

Heart Research Institute and The University of Sydney

To develop novel safe adjunctive antithrombotic therapies for the improved treatment of acute ischaemic stroke.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $750,000
Industry contribution: $761,224
Duration: January 2022 – December 2023 (Ongoing)

Inosi Therapeutics Pty Ltd

To develop lead optimisation of novel inhibitors of Insulin Regulated Aminopeptidase IRAP for the treatment of fibrosis in diabetes-induced renal and cardiovascular disease.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $704,230
Industry contribution:$1,526,462
Duration: October 2021 – September 2023 (Ongoing)

Nirtek Pty Ltd

To develop its NIRAF guidewire for the detection of unstable coronary plaques to prevent heart attack and death.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $750,000
Industry contribution: $900,469
Duration: October 2021 – December 2022 (Ongoing)

Queensland University of Technology

To develop a diagnostic tool for atheroma assessment to better manage vulnerable patients.

Location: Queensland
MTPConnect grant: $745,623
Industry contribution: $529,500
Duration: January 2022 – December 2023 (Ongoing)

The University of Melbourne

To develop technology to facilitate the detection and management of chronic disease as part of its 'Future Health Today and TorchRecruit: Changing the course of chronic disease' project.

Location: Victoria
MTPConnect grant: $749,981
Industry contribution: $3,831,953
Duration: January 2022 – December 2023 (Ongoing)

The University of Sydney

To investigate local regulation of inflammation for the treatment of peripheral arterial disease therapy.

Location: New South Wales
MTPConnect grant: $739,128
Industry contribution:t: $756,892
Duration: January 2022 – December 2023 (Ongoing)

Improving workforce skills and driving jobs growth is the focus of the $32 million REDI initiative, awarded to MTPConnect in February 2020. The program is providing industry experiences and skills development for students, researchers, clinicians, MTP sector professionals, entrepreneurs and innovators. The initiative is building an industry-ready workforce with the skills and capacity to keep pace with the demands of a rapidly changing sector for now and into the future.

The lists below show the partners of the REDI program who have been engaged to deliver training programs addressing identified skills gaps.

End-to-end commercialisation programs

- Flinders University (MDPP) – Medical device commercialisation
- ANDHealth Ltd – Digital health commercialisation
- The Actuator Operations Ltd (MedTech Actuator) – Biotechnology, health, wellbeing and MedTech commercialisation
- The George Institute for Global Health – Global health commercialisation

Specialist training programs

- Flinders University (MDPP) – Product development and commercialisation
- ANDHealth Ltd – Product development and commercialisation
- The Actuator Operations Ltd (MedTech Actuator) – Product development and commercialisation; health data and cybersecurity
- The George Institute for Global Health– Product development and commercialisation
- SeerPharma – Advanced manufacturing
- ARCS Australia – Clinical trials
- Cicada Innovations- Product development and commercialisation
- Biointelect Consortium (including ARCS Australia and Biodesign Australia)- Product development and commercialisation

Fellowships, internships and mentoring

- MTPConnect REDI Fellowship Program
- Queensland University of Technology (Bridge and BridgeTech Industry Fellowship program)
- GSK Australia
- VCCC Alliance
- APR.Intern
- IMNIS

MTPConnect
MedTech and Pharma Growth Centre

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Industry Growth Centres

Further information about the Industry Growth Centres Initiative is available at www.business.gov.au/industrygrowthcentres