$5m Grant Awarded to University Collaboration with SpeeDx

Australian Research Council fund Research Hub to tackle antimicrobial resistance

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA–(August 21, 2019). SpeeDx Pty. Ltd. today announced a successful grant application in collaboration with over 20 organisations* to form an Industrial Transformation Research Hub to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance. The Australian Research Council (ARC) awarded almost $5 million, supplemented with an additional $3.8 million from SpeeDx and other partner organisations, with the aim to engage Australia's leading researchers with collaborative industry involvement. The Hub will focus on antimicrobial resistance in sexually transmitted infections as a model for the wider, global problem of rising resistance rates. This is the beginning of a world-first partnership between industry, researchers, and stakeholders to address this critical challenge.

"We plan to develop new molecular diagnostic technologies and improve the processes for identifying potential new antibiotics," said Professor Guy, an epidemiologist from the Kirby Institute and UNSW Medicine, who is leading the Hub. "By securing connections across disciplines working to tackle antimicrobial resistance solutions, we hope to maximise the value of investment in this area."

Antimicrobial resistance is a critical area of concern around the globe, and smarter use of diagnostics through Resistance Guided Therapy has been identified as a key element to address over-use and misuse of antibiotics.

"The clinical utility of our current ***Resistance****Plus* tests has already been successfully demonstrated through collaborations with many of the researchers and organisations forming this Hub," says Colin Denver, SpeeDx CEO. "The additional funding and interdisciplinary collaboration will accelerate our efforts to expand the range of tools available to help clinicians and patients, and improve overall global health."

*The ARC Research Hub to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance is a collaboration between the following organisations:

Australian universities: UNSW Sydney (Kirby Institute, Centre for Social Research in Health), University of Queensland, Monash University, UTS and University of Melbourne

Industry and partner organisations: SpeeDx Pty Ltd, Cepheid, Recce Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Opal Biosciences Ltd, Boulos and Cooper Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, The Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (GARDP), The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), the Central and Eastern Sydney PHN , and NPS MedicineWise.

Other collaborating organisations: Murdoch Children's Research Institute, WHO Collaborating Centre for Sexually Transmitted Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance, Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic, Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, and Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre.

About SpeeDx

SpeeDx has developed a molecular diagnostics test portfolio, principally for infectious diseases, that provides both identification as well as therapeutic guidance capabilities. The company is based in Australia with offices in Austin and London, and distributors across Europe. SpeeDx specializes in molecular diagnostic solutions that go beyond simple detection to offer comprehensive information

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for improved patient management. Innovative real-time polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) technology has driven market-leading multiplex detection and priming strategies. Product portfolios focus on multiplex diagnostics for sexually transmitted infection (STI), antibiotic resistance markers, and respiratory disease. For more information about SpeeDx please see: https://plexpcr.com # # #

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