



Australian National Fabrication Facility Ltd

151 Wellington Road, Clayton 3168, Australia
ABN 50 124 231 661

Providing micro and nano fabrication facilities for Australian researchers.

MEDIA RELEASE

\$10M in funding awarded to under new BioMedTech Horizons program

ANFF will support four of eleven projects awarded funding

9:30am AEST, Tuesday 17 April, Melbourne, Australia –

MTPConnect – the Medical Technology, Biotechnology, and Pharmaceutical (MTP) Industry Growth Centre – and the Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, today announced that 11 projects will receive investment from the Australian Government's \$35 million BioMedTech Horizons program. The program aims to help Australia move more cutting edge-ideas and breakthrough discoveries towards proof-of-concept and commercialisation, and stimulate collaboration across disciplines between the research, industry and technology sectors to maximize entrepreneurship and idea potential.

Of the eleven projects, ANFF Nodes are a partner on two: Indee Labs development of its microfluidic gene therapy manufacturing platform with ANFF-SA, and the establishment of WearOptimo as a spin-out of Australian National University with its personalised diagnostic platform.

Two further projects to receive investment have directly benefited from the long-term support of ANFF: Allegra Orthopedics and their development of a 3D printed synthetic bone bioceramic, and the BioPen in-situ bioprinting treatment for cartridge injuries.

[More information on all recipients.](#)

Sue MacLeman, Managing Director and CEO of MTPConnect, said the BioMedTech Horizons program is providing the necessary support to boost investment, commercialisation and success of health innovations in Australia.

"These first investments from the BioMedTech Horizons program are set to fuel ongoing innovation in Australia, in line with MTPConnect's priorities for growth of the medical technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector. Indee Labs and the other 10 outstanding projects address identified global megatrends including precision healthcare and the digital evolution, as well as forecasted areas of unmet clinical need, such as immunology and advanced prosthetics."

Minister for Health, the Hon Greg Hunt MP, said, "The Turnbull Government is committed to improving the health services for all Australians and will continue to invest in better treatment, care and medical research. Our researchers are innovators and this investment will speed up the journey from idea to reality. These technologies have the potential to create better health outcomes for Australians, while driving investment and strengthening our economy. All Australians benefit from investment in health and medical research."

The BioMedTech Horizons program is being delivered as a part of the Australian Government's \$20 billion Medical Research Future Fund, which aims to transform health and medical research to improve lives, build the economy and contribute to health system sustainability through targeted strategic investment.

For more information on the BioMedTech Horizons program and first round recipients, please visit: www.mtpconnect.org.au/biomedtechhorizons

– ENDS –



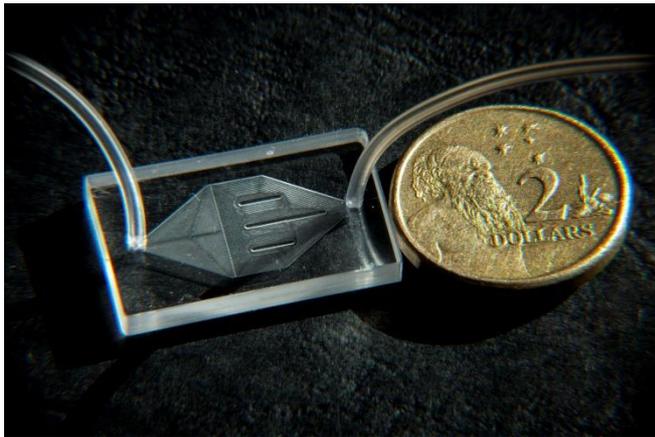
ANFF

Australian National Fabrication Facility Ltd

151 Wellington Road, Clayton 3168, Australia
ABN 50 124 231 661

Providing micro and nano fabrication facilities for Australian researchers.

Indee Labs BioMedTech Horizons Project: Towards bedside gene therapies



Indee's microfluidic chip responsible for the efficient delivery of genes into cells in the manufacturing of gene therapies, or GMCTs. Credit: Indee Labs.

Photo: [Link to image file here.](#)

and problematic step in manufacturing GMCTs. Our project will develop the only practical gene delivery technology, microfluidic vortex shedding (μ VS), into a product that will be trailed by pharmaceutical companies. μ VS will offer revolutionary improvements over existing gene delivery methods including high yield, negligible immune cell perturbation along with rapid processing of research, clinical and commercial-scale samples with a simple workflow and a small footprint.

Indee would like to hear from companies interested in trialling its gene delivery technology.

ANFF-SA has been working with Indee for several years on a simpler, cheaper and faster manufacturing method. It uses a microfluidic device to mechanically deliver new DNA into a cell as the critical step. Results obtained using recent prototypes have proven Indee's technology as the only viable gene delivery technology capable of addressing the population of patients who need it. The BioMedtech Horizon program will make this happen years earlier.

Indee Labs plans to make gene modified cell therapies (GMCTs) accessible to the masses by solving the manufacturing issues responsible for their high price tags. It will also reduce the lead times for a treatment from months to weeks saving the lives of patients with aggressive conditions.

Gene delivery to cells is the most critical



Australian National Fabrication Facility Ltd

151 Wellington Road, Clayton 3168, Australia
ABN 50 124 231 661

Providing micro and nano fabrication facilities for Australian researchers.

WearOptimo – MicroWearables: Leaping towards precision medicine



At the announcement of Biomedtech Horizons program, representatives from WearOptimo: (left) Prof Mark Kendall, Vice-Chancellor's Entrepreneurial Fellow at the Australian National University (ANU), (right) ANU Provost Professor Mike Calford.

Photo: [Link to image file here](#)

This project is a collaboration between WearOptimo, The Australian National University, Queensland Government, Johnson & Johnson Innovation and ANFF

Microwearables (simple, wearable devices) have the opportunity to be a cornerstone of precision medicine by offering personalised diagnostics across a range of diseases. These devices are minimally-invasive, pain-free sensors applied to the skin to access key biomarkers and biosignals – for both episodic and continuous monitoring.

In doing so, Microwearables aim to leapfrog traditional diagnostics: based on lab-based assays of blood samples and histopathology – with the costs, risks and time-delays. WearOptimo will be developed as a fit-for-purpose enterprise to rapidly compete at scale, meeting the unique opportunity at the nexus of three growing markets: IoT for medicine; personalised medicine; and wearable devices for healthcare.

Led by Professor Mark Kendall and in partnership with the Australian National University (ANU), this project will take the next critical step in working to advance Microwearables into an enterprise – that is commercial, with technical proof-of-concept, and is investor ready.



ANFF

Australian National Fabrication Facility Ltd

151 Wellington Road, Clayton 3168, Australia
ABN 50 124 231 661

Providing micro and nano fabrication facilities for Australian researchers.

About MTP Connect

MTPConnect was formed as a not-for-profit organisation in November 2015 as part of the Australian Government's Industry Growth Centres Initiative to accelerate the rate of growth of the MTP sector to achieve greater commercialisation and establish Australia as an Asia-Pacific hub for MTP companies.

The MTPConnect Head Office is located at the New Horizons Building at Monash University, co-located with CSIRO and industry. There are also key hubs at the University of Sydney's Institute of Biomedical Engineering and Technology and the Medical Device Research Institute at Flinders University at Tonsley in Adelaide.

Industry Growth Centres

The Industry Growth Centres Initiative is an industry-led approach driving innovation, productivity and competitiveness by focusing on areas of competitive strength and strategic priority. This will help Australia transition into smart, high value and export focused industries.

The Initiative enables national action on key issues such as collaboration, commercialisation, international engagement, skills and regulation reform. It drives excellence, not dependence, and will create an economy that ensures Australia's ongoing prosperity. For more information: www.industry.gov.au/industrygrowthcentres

Media inquiries:

Tom Eddershaw
Marketing and Communications Officer, ANFF
+61 3990 52030
tom.eddershaw@anff.org.au

Zoe Stephenson
Corporate Communications Manager, MTPConnect
+61 417 267 739
zoe.stephenson@mtpconnect.org.au