

Six Australian infectious disease innovations receive \$10.48 million to accelerate commercialisation potential

Biointellect Venturer has announced six Australian infectious disease innovations will share \$10.48 million in the incubator's first funding round giving the successful research teams the ability to advance their early-stage breakthroughs to commercial and investment readiness.

The recipients address significant local and global unmet health needs in infectious disease and include three vaccine offerings, a unique nasal antiviral technology and two vaccine platform technologies.

The projects will now enter the Biointellect Venturer incubation program for up to two years and receive non-dilutive funding, tailored commercialisation support, expert mentoring and access to national and international networks to help progress their technologies to secure commercial interest and funding.

Biointellect Venturer was established through a \$32.9 million Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) grant from the Australian Government's MRFF Medical Research Commercialisation initiative. It will support two national cohort intakes, this being the first, and a dedicated top-up round for high-potential projects as part of the program.

Biointellect Venturer is helping to build local capability in translational research and commercialisation and supporting the creation and growth of Australian biotech companies developing health technologies across the infectious disease sector. Ultimately the ambition is to strengthen Australia's position as a global infectious disease innovation hub.

Three vaccines form part of this first funding round; one targeting Group A Streptococcus (Strep A); a glycoconjugate vaccine targeting malaria; and an mRNA-LNP vaccine targeting Epstein-Barr virus. The funded projects also include a first-in-class nasal delivery spray designed to complement vaccination and support enhanced protection against respiratory viral infections.

In addition, two platform technologies are being advanced: and a vaccine platform that will commence with a Japanese encephalitis vaccine candidate but offer the potential application across other mosquito born flaviviruses; and an adaptable virus-like particle vaccine platform targeting respiratory viruses RSV, human metapneumovirus and parainfluenza virus with potential application across other RNA viruses.

The successful recipients:

ENA Respiratory Pty Ltd is developing a **Nasal Defence Enhancer (INNA-051)**, a nasal spray treatment for people at increased risk of serious complications from common respiratory viruses (like RSV, coronavirus and rhinovirus), particularly older adults and people with chronic health conditions. INNA-051 is designed to boost the human airways' natural antiviral defences and could complement vaccination providing an additional layer of protection against respiratory illness.

SAMMvax Pty Ltd has created **TriVax**, a trivalent vaccine designed to provide broad protection against **Strep A**, a common bacterial infection that can cause sore throats and skin infections but can also lead to sepsis, rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease. The vaccine has the potential to address an important public health priority, with acute rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease disproportionately affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Saccharide Therapeutics Pty Ltd is developing **ST101**, a new **malaria vaccine** which targets a specific structure consistent across all species and life cycle stages giving the potential for broader protection against different malaria parasites and at different stages of infection. If successful, it could help overcome some of the limitations of existing malaria vaccines and support global efforts to eliminate a disease that causes 250–280 million infections and more than 600,000 deaths each year.

Ebivanta Therapeutics Pty Ltd is developing an **mRNA vaccine** against **Epstein–Barr virus (EBV)**, which infects more than 90% of people worldwide and is linked to glandular fever, several cancers and autoimmune diseases, including multiple sclerosis. If successful, this would be a significant step forward in helping to prevent EBV infection and reduce the long-term risk of serious diseases associated with the virus.

Proboxis Biotechnology Pty Ltd is developing a **vaccine production platform** for mosquito-borne viruses, beginning with **Japanese encephalitis** which can be fatal or leave survivors with lifelong neurological complications. If successful, the technology could support the development of other vaccines, including for dengue, Zika, yellow fever and West Nile virus, and strengthening Australia's ability to rapidly develop and manufacture vaccines for existing and emerging infectious diseases.

AdaptiVax Pty Ltd is developing an adaptable virus-like particle (VLP) **vaccine platform technology** designed to enable the rapid development of vaccines against multiple respiratory viruses. The platform's initial application targets three viruses - **RSV, human metapneumovirus** and **parainfluenza virus**. These represent the three major causes of respiratory illness and hospitalisation, particularly among young children and older adults. If successful, the vaccine could not only protect against all three viruses, but the broader AdaptiVax platform could also support the development of vaccines against other RNA viruses, helping to strengthen Australia's vaccine manufacturing capability and preparedness for future respiratory disease threats.

Biointellect Venturer received 48 Expressions of Interest for this inaugural funding round. Applications were independently assessed by the Biointellect Venturer Investment Review Committee. Due diligence was then completed to assess risk, investment potential and where tailored support could add the greatest value.

Biointellect Venturer will open its second national funding round next month, with Expression of Interests opening **21 September 2026**, providing another opportunity for Australian innovators developing technologies for the prevention of infectious disease to access catalytic funding and tailored commercialisation support. For more information, register your interest via the Biointellect Venturer website [here](#).

The incubator will continue its important work in placing Australia at the forefront of global infectious disease innovation, increasing the country's visibility as a destination for international investment, partnerships and companies looking to develop, test and commercialise new technologies.

Danielle Shand, Biointellect Venturer General Manager:

"This inaugural cohort reflects exactly what Biointellect Venturer was established to do: accelerate high-quality Australian infectious disease innovations that address significant local and global health priorities and deliver investment-ready ventures.

"These companies can deliver substantial value through their discoveries but often face difficult early investment conditions and critical gaps between research and commercial readiness. By combining catalytic funding with hands-on commercialisation support, we can help promising technologies close those gaps."

Leah Goodman, CEO Biointellect:

"Biointellect Venturer brings together Biointellect's deep expertise in development and commercialisation strategy, regulatory pathways, market access and global partnering to support innovators to progress from promising science toward investment-ready ventures. By combining targeted funding with practical, hands-on support and access to national and international networks, Biointellect Venturer is helping strengthen Australia's capability to translate infectious disease innovations into products with real public health impact."

For further information please contact Anne-Marie Sparrow at Cube on 0417 421 560 or anne-marie@cube.com.au

About Biointellect

Biointellect Venturer leverages the breadth of Biointellect's full-service CRO and commercialisation capabilities to help emerging biotech and medtech companies translate innovation into commercial success. Drawing on expertise spanning research and development, clinical strategy and execution, regulatory affairs, market access, health economics, reimbursement and commercialisation planning, Biointellect provides both the technical delivery and strategic guidance required to progress products from concept and clinical development through to investment readiness, market adoption and patient impact.

About Biointellect Venturer

Biointellect Venturer is Australia's national incubator for infectious disease innovation, helping promising Australian scientific innovators accelerate their path from discovery to impact. Funded by the Australian Government's Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) through the 2024 BioMedTech Incubator grant opportunity, Biointellect Venturer combines catalytic non-dilutive funding with commercialisation expertise, strategic guidance, networks and tailored support to progress early-stage innovations towards commercial and investment readiness. Managed and operated by Biointellect, the incubator builds on Biointellect's deep expertise and success in supporting early-stage biotech and medtech commercialisation.