

Media Release

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Adelaide BioMed City (ABMC) advances as SA's health and medical research commercialisation catalyst, announcing a new Board and partnership with MTPConnect

Now in its fourth year of operation, ABMC is entering a new phase of development as a catalyst improving commercial outcomes from SA's investment in health and medical research and associated infrastructure. Through its new strategic plan, ABMC is focussing on helping collaborations within SA, with industry partners and emphasising SA's strength in clinical trials and combining new technologies.

A key part of this next step has been the appointment of an independent skills-based Board with national and international experience to assist in navigating the journey to successful engagement with commercialisation partners. The Board brings critical skills in commercialisation, clinical development, strategic marketing, entrepreneurship and community engagement. ABMC acknowledges the outstanding leadership of the outgoing Board, allowing ABMC to play a key role in promoting Adelaide's infrastructure and expertise, connecting industry with its strong academic, medical and health partners.

ABMC CEO, Yvette van Eenennaam, says the depth of industry and government experience, combined with the cross-section of skills of the new Directors, strongly positions ABMC to assist SA in becoming a significant global figure in health and medical innovation.

The 2021 South Australian Productivity Commission (SAPC) inquiry into Health and Medical Research and Development found that South Australia could better leverage its world-renowned research capabilities through improved connection with industry, delivering innovations in health technologies, devices and therapeutics.

"Through its new strategy, the nationally and internationally experienced Board is better equipped to assist in improving ABMC's capabilities through collaboration and connection with industry," Ms van Eenennaam said.

South Australia's Chief Scientist, Professor Caroline McMillen, says she couldn't be more impressed by the new team.

"As Chief Scientist for SA I am proud of the remarkable talent we have recruited to join the new Board of ABMC," she said.

"The Board will help us drive collaboration, innovation and translation of great health and medical ideas across the state and beyond to support better health across our community."

To further strengthen its activities, ABMC is partnering with MTPConnect to deliver the Adelaide Intermediary Program (AIP). As part of the EXCITE Strategy, the Government of South Australia has invested in this intermediary function to drive collaboration and knowledge transfer between researchers and industry. As Australia's industry growth centre for medtech, pharmaceuticals, biotech and digital health, MTPConnect has a strong track record of partnering with governments and businesses across Australia to grow innovation, commercialisation and translation outcomes.

"MTPConnect's commitment to a sector-led approach to growing the medical technology, biotechnology and pharmaceutical sector, as well as our national and international networks, uniquely positions us to deliver the Adelaide Intermediary Program with ABMC and the South Australian Government," said MTPConnect CEO, Stuart Dignam.

The AIP team, led by Jo Close, is connecting and empowering people in SA's health and medical ecosystem by providing expert advice and mentoring, facilitating local and global connections, attracting people and infrastructure support and improving strategic translational research activities.

“This strengthening of ABMC is an important step in catalysing commercialisation of our world class health and biomedical research for the benefit of the South Australian community. Through innovative connections between our talented and superb medical technology infrastructure we will present a compelling proposition for international collaborations and investments in Adelaide,” said ABMC Chair, Julian Clark.

Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science, The Hon Dr Susan Close, said the engagement of MTPConnect would help ensure research conducted at Adelaide BioMed City reaches its maximum economic and impact potential.

“Given MTPConnect’s track record of fostering connections between researchers, clinicians and industry, I have every confidence they will be a key contributor to our state’s innovation ecosystem,” she said.

About Adelaide BioMed City

ABMC is Adelaide’s \$4.2b health innovation district. A collaboration bringing together the Central Adelaide Local Health Network (CALHN), Women’s and Children’s Hospital (WCH), South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI), The University of Adelaide, University of South Australia and Flinders University.

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Entrepreneur and Corporate Advisor



Ellen Kerrins

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About MTPConnect

Established in 2015 as an independent, not-for-profit organisation, MTPConnect is Australia's Medical Technologies and Pharmaceuticals Industry Innovation Growth Centre, championing the growth of Australia's vibrant MTP ecosystem.

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