

Vice-President Jo Biden announces Cancer Research MoU

Bioplatforms Australia (BPA) is a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between researchers in the USA and Australia, announced by US Vice-President Joe Biden. The MoU will facilitate the sharing of an unprecedented international dataset which will significantly advance cancer research and care. Bioplatforms Australia through the Australian Commonwealth Government NCRIS programme enables Australian researchers in the fields of Genomics, Proteomics, Metabolomics and Bioinformatics.

BPA General Manager Andrew Gilbert said, “We are at a juncture where the research undertaken in genomics, proteomics and metabolomics, and the advent of ‘big data’, provide an inflection point where new treatments and therapies will be discovered which will be more effective and cheaper to deliver. This MoU enables research to be undertaken at scale through greater access to data, research infrastructure and talent, ultimately boosting life-changing research outcomes.”

Specifically, this MoU will work on how to better define diseases of cancer patients, to assist clinicians to select the best therapies with the least side-effects. Not only will an improvement in patient outcomes with regard to morbidity and quality of life be expected, but there will be less impact on the cost of public health from this disease.

“Solving the cancer riddle is important to Australians,” said Gilbert. “BPA is working towards this holy grail through a high quality collaborative approach. With the MoU we will see the best people working together locally, with international peers, to make a difference that would not be possible if pursued in silos.”

The signatories to the MoU are Bioplatforms Australia, Macquarie University, Garvan Institute of Medical Research and the Children’s Medical Research Institute in Australia, and The National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health in the US. Researchers at these facilities will collaborate in the field of clinical proteogenomic studies and the subsequent translation to cancer care (proteogenomic study is the study of genes and their protein products, their role in cancer development and progression and possible targets for therapies). The NSW Office of Health and Medical Research announced \$6 million support for the initiative.

Further information:

Andrew Gilbert, General Manager, Bioplatforms Australia

E: agilbert@bioplatforms.com

T: 02 9850 8281 M: 0410 538648

The White House Fact Sheet via this [link](#)