Translating Health Discovery (THD)

The THD project was established in April 2011 under the Australian Government’s Super Science Initiative.

The project has two objectives:
- Improving Australian capacity in translation of therapeutic discoveries into clinical applications through providing researchers with a network of facilitated pathways and expert advice.
- Addressing the most pressing gaps in research infrastructure in the area of therapeutic research.

Key facts
- States: NSW, QLD, SA, VIC, WA
- Lead institute: Therapeutic Innovation Australia Ltd.
- Project status: In progress
- Australian Government contribution: $35 million from the Education Investment Fund under the Super Science Initiative; and $7 million from the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy 2013 programme.

Funding partners include eight universities (Griffith, SA, Monash, Melbourne, NSW, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, University of Queensland and the University of Sydney) and 10 related research and other agencies.

Project deliverables
There are three major groups of deliverables under the THD project:
- Queensland Node – a prototype of the future national entity (as envisaged by the facilitator for the project Professor Ross McKinnon) providing Australian researcher with ‘one stop shop’ - a network of facilitated pathways and expert advice increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of translating therapeutic discoveries to clinical applications.
- Five Expert Advisory Committees: Queensland Node Committee; Virtual Pharma Committee; Clinical Trials Infrastructure Committee; Biomaterial, Biopharmaceuticals and Medical Device Committee; and Cell and Gene Therapy Committee.
- Research Infrastructure at 22 facilities – participants in the project – available for and accessible by Australian researchers working in the areas of biopharmaceuticals; cell-based therapies; clinical trials infrastructure; drug screening; integrated preclinical capability; and personalised medicine and pharmacometrics.

Access
All Australian researchers are eligible to become users of THD. All project proposals are assessed on:
- scientific merit
feasibility and quality of research
availability of technical expertise
availability of relevant instrumentation
compliance with node OH&S and risk processes
relevant ethics approval obtained by the user

Reasonable commercial rates are charged to industry users. Researchers wishing to access THD facilities can find details at http://www.therapeuticinnovation.com.au/

Participating organisations and partners

- Monash University
- The University of Queensland
- Florey Neurosciences Institutes (University of Melbourne)
- The University of Queensland, Diamantina Institute
- Griffith Health Institute (Griffith University)
- Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies (Griffith University)
- National Health and Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Centre (the University of Sydney)
- The University of New South Wales
- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology Drug Discovery Technologies Pty Ltd Laboratories
- Queensland Institute of Medical Research
- Children’s Cancer Institute Australia for Medical Research
- Monash Institute of Medical Research
- Cell & Tissue Therapies, WA, Royal Perth Hospital
- The Children’s Hospital at Westmead (Kids Research Institute)
- Sydney Centre for Cell and Gene Therapy, Westmead Research Hub
- Cell and Molecular Therapies, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney South West Area Health Service
- Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre
- South Australia Pathology trading as Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science
- Garvan Institute of Medical Research
- The University of South Australia
- Australian Institute for Bioengineering and Nanotechnology
- Walter and Eliza Hall Institute

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