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Australian Government
Department of Industry,
Innovation and Science

Business
Cooperative Research
Centres Program

MEDIA RELEASE

\$2.18m grant awarded to VivaZome Therapeutics for Exosome Therapy

Collaboration with La Trobe University and SeerPharma

18 December 2017, Geelong - Melbourne, Australia: Australian biotech company VivaZome Therapeutics is pleased to announce that it has been awarded an Australian Government CRC-P grant of \$2.18m in support of the project “Enabling Exosome Therapy: Developing an Advanced Manufacturing Process”, with the funds provided under the Advanced Manufacturing Scheme.

The Hon Craig Laundry MP (Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science) oversees the Cooperative Research Centre Projects (CRC-P) Grants Scheme which supports the development of innovative Australian companies and sectors.

Joining VivaZome in the CRC-P are La Trobe University and SeerPharma Pty Ltd, each of which bring high-level scientific and operational skills to the 3 –year project. VivaZome will also engage with the CSIRO to provide expertise in industrial–scale manufacturing.

Craig Newton, Executive Director and founder of VivaZome Therapeutics said: “We are delighted to receive this strong support from the Australian Government. Exosomes have great potential to treat a wide range of diseases. What’s held back that potential is the challenge of producing exosomes in large quantities. With the help of La Trobe University, SeerPharma and CSIRO, we will develop a scalable manufacturing process to address that challenge. We expect our first product to focus on vascular disease where new treatment options are urgently needed.”

Dr Dan Grant, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Industry Engagement) of La Trobe University said: “Our collaboration with VivaZome and SeerPharma is another example of La Trobe’s continued commitment to partner with industry and generate real impact from the world-leading research we undertake.”

Paul Kerr, Partner and Senior Consultant at SeerPharma said: “We are excited to be involved in this innovative project and to bring our expertise in quality and risk management consulting, compliance oversight and GLP/GMP training.”

The VivaZome CRC-P project work will commence in early 2018 with a series of significant scientific, industrial and education milestones to be achieved by end 2020.

For further information, contact:

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VivaZome Therapeutics Pty Ltd

VivaZome Therapeutics Pty Ltd (ABN 59 602 230 964) is a privately-held Australian biotech company, head quartered in Geelong, Victoria. VivaZome was formed to develop and commercialise exosome-based therapies, with a focus on treatments for debilitating and/or life-threatening disorders which are not adequately managed by current therapies.

VivaZome plans to work in collaboration to develop new technologies, generate intellectual property and progress the exosome therapies through clinical trials and manufacturing with the aim of providing new effective treatments for Australia and for international markets.

The VivaZome team has significant expertise in the development and commercialisation of biological therapies, together with a wide network of expert contacts in the Australian and global biotech community.

For more information, visit www.vivazome.com

Exosomes

Exosomes are small particles released by cells. They are a key effector in communication between cells and have the potential to become an off-the-shelf medicine without the technical problems of cell therapies. Currently exosomes are made at small scale – the VivaZome project aims to develop a large-scale advanced manufacturing process for exosomes.