



OPAL BIOSCIENCES LIMITED

ABN 97 605 631 963

Level 4,

100 Albert Road,

South Melbourne, Victoria, 3205

Australia

Phone: +613 9692 7240

Web: [www.opalbiosciences.com](http://www.opalbiosciences.com)

## Announcement

### Opal BioSciences partners in successful ARC Research Hub bid

**Melbourne, 20 August 2019:** Australian infectious disease therapy company Opal Biosciences Limited (“Opal”) is pleased to announce its participation in the successful Australian Research Council (ARC) **Research Hub to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance** announced on the weekend by the Hon. Dan Tehan MP, Federal Minister for Education. As part of its Industrial Transformation Research Hubs initiative, the ARC awarded this Hub almost \$5 million.

Combatting antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is an urgent priority internationally and is recognised as a priority of Australia’s Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF). The Hub will focus on sexually transmitted microorganisms, a critical area of concern in Australia and globally, as an example of the wider problem of antimicrobial resistance.

Opal will benefit from this research-industry collaboration through accessing further expertise to understand the scope of efficacy of our lead compound BDM-I in particular as a potential therapeutic for the sexually-transmitted infection, gonorrhoea and inform our progress towards clinical trials.. BDM-I has shown the ability the kill antibiotic-resistant forms of gonorrhoea in laboratory testing.

This Hub aims to take on the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance for Australia through a world-first partnership between industry, researcher and end users to transform antimicrobial resistance (AMR) stewardship. The Hub applies a highly integrated diagnostic and pharmaceutical approach to the problem of AMR, fostering an enhanced pre-commercialisation environment to develop new molecular diagnostic technology and identify new antibiotic compounds. It will be led by Professor Rebecca Guy at the University of New South Wales.

The **ARC Research Hub to Combat Antimicrobial Resistance** is a collaboration between the following organisations: **Australian universities:** UNSW Sydney (Kirby Institute, Centre for Social Research in Health), University of Queensland, Monash University, UTS and University of Melbourne **Industry and partner organisations:** SpeedX Pty Ltd, Cepheid, Recce Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Opal Biosciences Ltd, Boulos and Cooper Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd, The Global Antibiotic Research & Development Partnership (GARDP), The Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), the Central and Eastern Sydney PHN , and NPS MedicineWise. **Other collaborating organisations:** Murdoch Children’s Research Institute, WHO Collaborating Centre for Sexually Transmitted Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance, Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic, Western Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Sydney Sexual Health Centre, Papua New Guinea Institute of Medical Research, and Thai Red Cross AIDS Research Centre.

## About Opal Biosciences Ltd

Opal Biosciences is a preclinical stage Australian biotechnology company and an innovative player in infectious disease treatment. The unmet need for new anti-infectives is due to increasing resistance to existing antibiotics, more widespread and common difficult-to-treat infections, and the paucity of upcoming new treatments. This need has spurred the EU and US to introduce significant financial incentives to encourage development of new anti-infectives.

Opal is developing a small molecule, BDM-I, as a therapeutic to treat serious human infections including those resistant to antibiotics. BDM-I is in the preclinical stage of development and has obtained development assistance from international agencies.

BDM-I has shown activity against select bacterial and fungal pathogens, responsible for serious infections. These include methicillin-resistant *Staph aureus* (MRSA) and resistant strains of *Neisseria gonorrhoea*. Rising reports of antibiotic resistance to gonorrhoea are concerning health authorities worldwide.

For more information, please visit [www.opalbiosciences.com](http://www.opalbiosciences.com).

## Further information

Julie Phillips, Managing Director, Opal Biosciences Ltd

Phone +61 3 9692 7222

Email [jphillips@opalbiosciences.com](mailto:jphillips@opalbiosciences.com)

Twitter @opalbiosciences