

**23 August 2021**

## ASX Announcement

### Griffith University Anti-Viral Molecule Screening Collaboration

- New drug research collaboration focused on repurposing small molecules with known clinical histories as new anti-viral agents
- Utilises highly sensitive screening technology to assist in accelerating drug repurposing strategies
- Enhances Island's drug development pipeline, focused on advancing preventative or therapeutic drugs for existing and emerging viral threats beyond mosquito borne viruses

MELBOURNE Australia, 23 August 2021: Australian antiviral drug repurposing company, Island Pharmaceuticals Ltd (ASX: ILA) announces a research and development collaboration with Griffith University to screen for active anti-viral molecules in a rational repurposing strategy. The research and development collaboration is effective immediately.

Expenditure under the collaboration will be determined on a project-by-project basis once targets of interest have been jointly agreed by the Parties, but in any event total expenditures attributed to this agreement and Monash Collaboration agreement are not expected to exceed that outlined for R&D in the prospectus.

This collaboration adds to Island's existing collaboration with Monash University and provides the opportunity to explore different libraries of molecules with diverse technologies against viruses of significant unmet medical need. The collaboration agreements enable material advances to Island's pipeline development beyond its existing mid-clinical stage program, ISLA-101, by providing new opportunities to examine anti-viral molecules against emerging viruses with significant unmet medical need.

Under the terms of the Island Pharmaceuticals and Griffith University collaboration, viral targets will be selected by the collaboration's Joint Steering Committee, comprising individuals from both Island and Griffith. The viral targets will be selected based on recommendations from the Joint Steering Committee and any costs will be supported by Island. The viruses will be screened against small molecule libraries held at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD) Compounds Australia facility, using highly sensitive assays.

Depending on the fee paid by Island in a given project, intellectual property will vest with Island or with Island and Griffith. Under either scenario, Island will have the right of first refusal to develop and commercialise molecules that are identified in the screens. Over the course of the five-year Agreement, Island and Griffith may pursue multiple projects, the scope of which will be determined on a project-by-project basis, although no specific number of projects is required. Island will pay market-rate royalties and milestones, which will be determined on a project-by-project basis, to develop and commercialise molecules identified in the screen. The agreement may be terminated if no project is initiated within 6 months of execution of the Agreement and may also be terminated for breach.

Prof. Ron Quinn of Griffith University has established a magnetic resonance mass spectrometry approach for rapidly screening either large numbers of target proteins or whole viral lysates against a compound, group of compounds or larger numbers of compounds against known targets. This allows more rapid processing of sample types to identify drug-protein binding. Drugs showing binding interactions can then be assessed for effect in functional biologic assays in the laboratory of viral immunologist Prof. Suresh Mahalingam from Griffith's Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ). Under the collaboration, molecules will be progressed into animal models of viral diseases, up to and including Biological Safety Level 3 viruses.



CEO of Island Pharmaceuticals, Dr David Foster said, "We are excited to initiate this collaboration with the excellent scientists at Griffith University. The availability of substantial small molecule libraries along with the expertise in the labs of Professors Quinn and Mahalingam, provides a platform for Island to expand our rational repurposing strategy to identify active anti-viral molecules."

"Much drug discovery research is still being conducted in the same way as it has been for decades. However, using mass spectrometry to identify drug-target pairs is modern, fast and highly efficient," said Professor Quinn.

By expanding the number of programs and molecules in the Company pipeline, the collaboration agreement furthers Island's drug repurposing strategy as outlined in its IPO Prospectus.

**Approved for release to the ASX by:**

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**About Island Pharmaceuticals**

Island is clinical-stage drug repurposing company, focused on the rapid development of antiviral therapeutics for infectious diseases. The Company's lead asset is ISLA-101, a drug with a well-established safety profile, being repurposed for the prevention and treatment of dengue fever and other mosquito (or vector) borne diseases. The Company is advancing toward a Phase II clinical trial in dengue-infected subjects.

If ISLA-101 achieves FDA approval, and certain other criteria are met, Island would be eligible to obtain a "Priority Review Voucher" at the time of FDA approval. This means that in addition to obtaining approval to manufacture and market ISLA-101, the Priority Review Voucher (PRV) would permit Island to expedite the FDA approval process for a new drug or sell the PRV in a secondary market.

*Island encourages all current investors to go paperless by registering their details with the Company's share registry, Automic Registry Services, whose contact info is housed on the Shareholder Services page of the Company's website.*

Visit [www.islandpharmaceuticals.com](http://www.islandpharmaceuticals.com) for more on Island.

**About Griffith University**

Griffith University understands the pursuit of excellence is central to its being, consistently ranking in the world's top 250 universities in the [Times Higher Education](#) annual rankings. It also rates highly as a young university, regularly featuring in the QS Top 50 [Under 50 and](#) the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings top fifty. In the most recent Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) evaluation, conducted in 2018, Griffith was rated as world standard or better in 59 fields of research, comprising 98 per cent of the University's research output.



### **About Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD)**

GRIDD is a Griffith University research institute with a focus on early stage and pre-clinical drug discovery. GRIDD uses its unique resources, dedicated researchers, and partnerships to drive the discovery and development of revolutionary new treatments to improve human health.

GRIDD is focusing on several key discovery areas, including cancer, infectious diseases, Parkinson's disease, drug resistance and spinal cord injury repair. Innovating at the cutting-edge of both chemistry and biology, GRIDD researchers collaborate with governments, academia, industry and communities to create knowledge that transforms lives for the better.

### **About Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ)**

Menzies Health Institute Queensland (MHIQ) undertakes research across the lifecycle to identify key factors that influence health. From this we develop and test strategies to improve health and wellbeing for all.

Four overarching programs—Disability and Rehabilitation, EPIC Health Systems, Healthcare Practice and Survivorship, and Infectious Diseases and Immunology capture our research strengths and align with local and national health priorities.