Melbourne
A WORLD LEADING BIOTECH HUB

Melbourne has one of the world’s largest life science clusters and is home to more than 40 per cent of Australia’s biomedical researchers. It boasts a vibrant biotechnology commercial sector, key R&D infrastructure and advanced manufacturing expertise, making it a highly sought after destination by global companies.

AUSTRALIA OFFERS COMPANIES UP TO
45¢ IN THE $ TAX INCENTIVE ON ELIGIBLE R&D EXPENSES

MELBOURNE IS 1 OF ONLY 3 CITIES IN THE WORLD TO HAVE 2 UNIVERSITIES IN THE GLOBAL TOP 20 BIOMEDICINE RANKINGS

MELBOURNE ATTRACTS MORE THAN 53 PER CENT OF ALL ASX-LISTED LIFE SCIENCES COMPANIES ARE BASED IN MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE ATTRACTIONS MORE THAN 40 PER CENT OF AUSTRALIA’S MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

MELBOURNE
Victoria Australia
Cancer care, clinical research and therapeutics

Melbourne is a leading location for cancer care, research and the development of innovative new therapies. Built on outstanding infrastructure for drug discovery, international cancer experts and a vibrant collaborative culture, Melbourne is connected to the world in advancing oncology cures and treatments.

• The Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre brings together the world-recognised Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, the University of Melbourne, several health services and research institutes in a new A$1 billion purpose built facility in Melbourne’s Parkville biomedical precinct.

• The Olivia Newton-John Cancer Wellness & Research Centre provides high quality medical treatment and supportive care for cancer patients and their families.

• The Monash Partners Comprehensive Cancer Consortium is an affiliation of major academic research institutions and cancer service providers.

Specialised platforms operating across Melbourne are supporting new insights into cancer:

• The Australian Cancer Research Fund Translational Proteomic Facility determines how a patient’s tumour will respond to targeted drugs.

• The Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance uses genomic sequencing to speed up, more accurately detect and diagnose patients with selected advanced cancer.

• BioGrid Australia operates research infrastructure that provides secure access to real-time privacy-protected clinical, imaging and biospecimen health data across jurisdictions and institutions.

Infectious diseases and diagnostic testing

Victoria is a key location for innovation and development in the control of infectious diseases. Melbourne scientists receive more than 50 per cent of Australia’s health and medical research funding for infection and immunity research. Recent examples of Melbourne’s position as a leader in its field include:

• Australian Animal Health Laboratories, one of the most sophisticated high containment laboratories in the world, together with CSIRO first identified the deadly Hendra virus – one of the most dangerous of viruses.

• CSL’s subsidiary, Seqirus, manufactures a range of life-saving products including vaccines for seasonal influenza, the pandemic influenza and against Q Fever.

• The Burnet Institute’s point-of-care VISTECT®CD4 test, which enables CD4+ T-cell levels to be determined quickly and conveniently using a finger-prick blood sample.
Clinical trials
Melbourne offers an exciting environment for clinical trials with its combination of leading medical professionals, world class facilities, strong regulatory system and Government support.

Drug discovery and development
Melbourne has proven expertise across many stages of the drug discovery process and is well regarded and highly sought after by global pharmaceutical companies. About 200 clinical and pre-clinical programs are currently being run across Melbourne.

Trials conducted in Melbourne benefit from:

- A simple and efficient regulatory regime, including the Clinical Trials Notification scheme, where trials can begin within a week of registration
- Support by the Government including R&D tax incentives (up to 45 per cent refundable tax credit) and other programs
- Competitive cost, high quality location with access to leading medical professionals, and health data management experts
- An ethnically-diverse participant recruitment pool
- Clinical trials data generated in Australia being acceptable for regulatory approval by the FDA, EU and other regulatory agencies.

Neuroscience research and development
As a leading location for neuroscience research and the development of innovative new therapies and devices, Victoria is at the cutting edge of advances in the management of disorders of the brain and central nervous system.

The Melbourne Brain Centre, with new purpose-built facilities in Parkville and at the Austin Hospital, is home to Australia’s largest brain research collaboration. It includes a wide range of leading institutes covering key aspects of neuroscience, including mental health, sensory disorders and medical bionics.

Recent examples of Melbourne’s position as a leader in neuroscience research and new products include:

- Melbourne neuroscientists and leading medical radiation physicists and chemists working with companies like Siemens to advance MRI and PET imaging technologies
• The Melbourne Genomics Health Alliance working with world leading clinical neurologists to provide faster and more accurate detection and diagnosis for patients with epilepsy and inherited neuropathies

• University of Melbourne researchers developing the “Stentrode”, a matchstick-sized stent that can be inserted through a vein in a patient’s neck and measure real time continuous brain activity.

Regenerative medicine

Melbourne is known for its collaborative capability to deliver transformative treatments. It is a leader in stem cell research and regenerative medicine.

Melbourne’s capabilities in the field have been demonstrated through a number of recent achievements including:

• Global medical engineering company, Invetech, working closely with Organovo to help them design and manufacture the world’s first commercial 3D bioprinter

• Walter and Eliza Hall Institute researchers being the first to identify and isolate breast stem cells, and showing how they may be the potential cell of origin for breast cancer

• Regenerative medicine leader, Mesoblast Ltd leveraging a proprietary stem cell technology platform to establish a broad portfolio of late stage product candidates for a range of conditions

• PolyNovo Biomaterial Pty Ltd winning approval from the US FDA to sell NovoSorb, a temporary lattice inserted ahead of eventual skin grafts for patients with burns.

Medical technologies

More than 250 medical technology companies play a key role in the success story of Melbourne as leading biotechnology clusters. Melbourne’s design and engineering companies are recognised for their excellence in translating ideas into cutting edge solutions.

Invest Victoria is the point of entry for all enquiries about establishing a new business or growing an existing business in Victoria. We’ll work with you to develop business solutions that meet your company’s needs and ensure your business future in Victoria is secure and profitable.

invest.vic.gov.au/bio

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne.
© Copyright State of Victoria, 2016.
To receive this publication in an accessible format email info@invest.vic.gov.au