

Australia's Monash University inks research collaboration with Japan-based Ono Pharma

13 January 2023 | News

Finding new drug candidates that fulfil unmet medical needs in autoimmune and inflammatory diseases



An option and research collaboration agreement has been established between Australia's Monash University and Japan-based Ono Pharmaceutical, which brings together extensive expertise in the discovery and development of antibodies targeting G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs) to enable the generation of novel therapeutics for the treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

Through this collaboration, funded by Ono Pharmaceutical, Monash University's Biomedicine Discovery Institute will lead the antibody discovery campaign to target two GPCRs traditionally hard to target.

GPCRs comprise the largest class of membrane receptors and amount to approximately 800 in the human genome. GPCR-targeted therapeutics comprise major drug classes in many disease areas.

The agreement will see Ono Pharmaceutical hold exclusive worldwide rights to develop and commercialise some existing antibodies Monash University has developed, in addition to any antibodies arising out of the drug discovery collaboration. If Ono exercises its option under the agreement, Monash University is entitled to receive an upfront payment, success-based milestones on the development progress and royalties on future sales.

Monash Innovation, part of the Enterprise portfolio at Monash University, facilitated the partnership between Monash University and Ono Pharmaceutical.