BioSpectrum
the business of Bio & Health Sciences
ASIA EDITION

Australia announces $50 M investment in mRNA vaccine manufacturing

April 21, 2021 | News

Monash University's world-leading experts will work with the Victorian Government



The Victorian Government's $50 million investment in mRNA vaccine manufacturing is welcome recognition of the world-class capability of Monash University specialists and the important role they are playing in the fight against COVID-19.

Acting Premier James Merlino and Minister for Health Martin Foley announced the funding at Monash Health to invest in critical medical manufacturing technology and research over two years as part of the Victorian State Budget 21/22.

Monash University's world-leading experts will work with the Victorian Government, the University of Melbourne and research institutes including The Doherty Institute to establish and scale mRNA vaccine manufacturing in Victoria, Australia.

In 2020 a team of Monash University researchers, led by Professor Colin Pouton, developed Australia's first COVID-19 mRNA vaccine candidates and, in collaboration with The Doherty Institute, received Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) funding to develop the vaccine. Further MRFF funding was granted to conduct a Phase 1 clinical trial.

Monash University Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Senior Vice-President (Enterprise and Governance), Professor Ken Sloan, said this investment will harness the existing world-class capability of Monash and other Victorian partners to support significant, scaled domestic mRNA vaccine production.

The investment follows the success of the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, which have been proven to be highly effective.

The proven scalability and comparative low-cost vaccine manufacturing potential of mRNA vaccines and nanomedicines secures them as the critical technology platform for vaccines and medicines of the future.