



Monash Health Research Precinct Translation Facility

Background

The Monash Health Research Precinct (MHRP) will constitute a major purpose built, cross-disciplinary translational research and clinical applications facility. These buildings are not primarily for more laboratories or clinical services, but to increase efficiency and provide better patient care by translation of laboratory findings to the clinic, and using clinical insights to focus the agenda of basic investigation.

The Monash Health Research Precinct is made up of four partner organisations: Southern Health (SH), Monash University Southern Clinical School (SCS), Prince Henry's Institute (PHI) and the Monash Institute of Medical Research (MIMR).

When the new buildings are added to the existing Precinct the total MHRP facility will comprise approximately 14,000 m² NLA *in which space will be allocated on a thematic and not institutional basis.*

SH is the largest public healthcare provider in Victoria, serving a growing population of 1.1 million people. Monash Medical Centre (MMC) is the only major hospital in Melbourne to provide health, community and referral services from conception to aged care.

The MHRP research will cover the spectrum of health and disease across the whole lifespan in eight themes: Cardiovascular, Cancer, Women's Health, Men's Health, Inflammatory and Infectious Diseases, Endocrinology and Metabolism, Neuroscience and Mental Health and Paediatrics.

These themes address the national major priority areas – chronic debilitating disease, bone and joint disease, asthma, diabetes, heart attack and stroke.

Currently there are a number of discipline-specific models for very productive collaborative activity. One example is men's health, where male infertility has involved a consortium of Monash University, MIMR, PHI, SH (conjoint program grants, national public health initiatives such as Andrology Australia) and – in private/public partnership – Monash IVF, itself a spin-off of the MHRP partners.

The MHRP partners are in a unique position to launch a dedicated translational research facility. The four stakeholders have committed to a common philosophy of research and shared infrastructure, with staff co-located by area of disease burden, as opposed to institutional affiliation, to maximise the possibilities for translational research.

The context for a dedicated translational research facility at the MHRP is arguably more attractive than anywhere else in Australia, What sets the Precinct apart from similar locations in other states are four aspects of its situation.

First, many of Australia's pharmaceuticals are located in the south east corridor in Melbourne (GSK, BMS, Servier), easily accessible to and from MHRP similar considerations apply to potential users of an MMC-based translational facility (e.g. IDT, BASF, Parmalat, Universal Biosensors).

Second, the Australian Synchrotron is a major national facility, its location in close proximity to MHRP presents unique possibilities for on-site use and collaborative studies.

Thirdly, MMC has a unique full-service remit as a teaching hospital and community service provider for over one million people, including obstetrics and gynaecology, and is already the third largest provider of paediatric care in Australia.

Finally, the array of national facilities at Monash University which MHRP can serve – including the Monoclonal Antibody Technology Facility, the Australian Regenerative Medicine Institute, the Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories, the Australian Stem Cell Centre, the NCRIS Animal Models of Disease facility, the Biomaterials and Nanotechnology Centres and many others

SUMMARY

Translation is an absolute requirement to maximise efficiency and optimise patient outcomes in health. The agreement between Monash SCS, SH, MIMR and PHI to focus on translation offers unique opportunities to exploit collaboration between the partners, and with CSIRO divisions, the unique Monash on-campus centres, the staff of the Australian Synchrotron and industry. As a dedicated translational facility MHRP will play a pioneering role in maximising efficiency and productivity, in focussing research agenda and in optimising patient outcomes.