

## MRFF grant awarded to QUT, in collaboration with Microba to develop a world-leading human microbiome biobank

- The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) has awarded a \$2.92m grant to the Queensland University of Technology (QUT) with Microba as the commercial partner
- This funding will establish the world's most comprehensive human microbiome biobank and forms part of the National Critical Research Infrastructure Initiative Grant
- The collaboration between QUT and Microba will lead to the isolation and characterisation of thousands of new bacterial species from the human microbiome
- The Australian Human Microbiome Biobank (AHMB) will be a globally unique asset and has the potential to enable numerous therapeutic programs and partnerships

**Microba Life Sciences Limited** (ASX: MAP) ("Microba") is pleased to announce that \$2.92m in funding has been awarded by the Medical Research Future Fund to support Microba and the QUT Centre for Microbiome Research (CMR) to isolate and characterise thousands of new species from the human microbiome to establish a world-leading human microbiome biobank - the Australian Human Microbiome Biobank (AHMB).

**Microba's Senior Vice President – Therapeutics, Prof. Trent Munro** said *"The establishment of the AHMB represents an enormous opportunity for Microba, providing a valuable resource to advance our current therapeutic programs in inflammatory bowel disease, immuno-oncology and autoimmune diseases, and future potential programs. Our previous research has identified new microorganisms associated with a range of other human diseases, and the AHMB will significantly enhance our ability to rapidly translate these findings into new therapies."*

The human microbiome represents a rich biological resource, but our ability to isolate, grow and characterise most microorganisms in the laboratory remains limited. This is a major obstacle in microbiome research and therapeutic development, as culturing individual species is critical for dissecting microbial mechanisms underpinning human health and disease.

In the MRFF funded program, QUT in collaboration with Microba will overcome this obstacle by building Australia's first atmosphere-controlled, high-throughput cultivation platform, which integrates novel methods in spectral flow cytometry and metagenomics. This innovative approach will be applied to a diverse range of microbial communities throughout the human body, including the gut, skin, vaginal and oral microbiome, resulting in the world's most comprehensive biobank of its kind.

The program will be led by CMR Director Professor Gene Tyson at QUT, and human microbiome samples will be analysed using Microba's world leading metagenomic technology to identify species of interest for targeted research.

The Company considers that the QUT and Microba collaboration is material and price sensitive for the following reasons.

- The grant will fund the establishment of the AHMB asset led by QUT, and Microba is expected to have commercial access as the lead commercial partner.
- The commercial value of that asset based on the MRFF funding and in-kind investment to establish the AHMB, is expected to be approximately \$3m.

- The AHMB has the potential to support the Company's current therapeutic programs in inflammatory bowel disease, immuno-oncology and autoimmune diseases which are critical to the Company, as well as future potential programs.

*This announcement has been authorised for release by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.*

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**About Microba Life Sciences Limited**

Microba Life Sciences is a precision microbiome company driven to improve human health. With world-leading technology for measuring the human gut microbiome, Microba is driving the discovery and development of novel therapeutics for major chronic diseases and delivering gut microbiome testing services globally to researchers, clinicians, and consumers. Through partnerships with leading organisations, Microba is powering the discovery of new relationships between the microbiome, health and disease for the development of new health solutions.

**For more information visit: [www.microba.com](http://www.microba.com)**

Microba encourages all current investors to go paperless by registering their details with the designated registry service provider, Automic Group.