

## **FSHD Global Research Organisation**

### Seeking proposals to create a start-up micro-cap Biotech in Australia

**Initial Seed Investment:** \$0.5 mil – Timeframe 2017-18

**Continuing Investment:** FSHD Global Research organisation to seek and/or support further investment rounds post 2018 subject to milestone progress of entity

**Background.** FSHD is one of the most common muscular dystrophies, a progressive condition that leaves many sufferers wheelchair bound. It has no regulatory approved medical treatments. FSHD Global is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest funder of FSHD therapeutics research & development globally after the National Institutes of Health of the United States, having providing almost \$10 mil in funding for science into this devastating form of muscular dystrophy. The Foundation takes a modern approach to identifying the best path to treatment with a strategic mix of funding targeting both biotech companies as well as academic research departments. In this way the Foundation has been instrumental in facilitating the formation of the nascent FSHD biotech sector, with companies like Facio Therapies now breaking new ground in development of therapies targeting the genetic pathways. However, there remains a substantial future strategic gap in the therapeutic landscape for FSHD sufferers. This is related to the irreversible nature of progressive disease which means that 100,000s of sufferers globally will live with permanent muscle disability.

**Type of Proposal sought.** The foundation in the capacity of founding investor would like to provide seed capital towards the establishment of an early stage biotech company which would be directed at the development of technology to build new muscle tissue suitable for transplant into FSHD sufferers specifically, but also with broader applications for other muscle diseases/repair of injuries.

To be successful, the Foundation feels that this would require the integration of technologies such as 3D printing of stem cells and soft gel biomaterials/matrices. Ultimately, incorporation of CRISPR genetic technology may also be required in order to correct the genetic defect. However, the Foundation is realistic about how far the technology could progress in the current round of funding. It is noted that 3D printing of tissue is now a rapidly progressing and exciting field of biotechnology, and that Australia is well placed to capitalise on the technological development in this space.

#### **Application details:**

- Non-confidential information memorandum (5 pages/slides maximum) describing scientific capabilities and commercialisation strategy, as well as share issue plan
- CVs of likely key personnel and time commitment to biotech over next 12 months (Note. Given the seed funding nature, there is an understanding that part-time commitments would be reasonable for example with academic tenure responsibilities)
- Description of key milestones for current funding
- Aspirational milestones beyond current funding round
- Company registration and governance plans (2 pages maximum)

**Applications Close: 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2018**

**We welcome International collaborations that can assist with this project.**

**Non-financial commercial assistance.** The Foundation board includes directors with significant commercialisation and corporate governance expertise. Should the founders wish to seek mentorship and informal advice, it is likely that the board would avail itself to provide such assistance.

**Contact.** If you wish to make a submission, you are most welcome to reach out to FSHD Global Research Foundation on (02) 8007 7037 or [admin@fshdglobal.org](mailto:admin@fshdglobal.org) to organise a meeting, where we can address any questions and discuss requirements for proposals.