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Luina Bio, Griffith University team up to develop coronavirus vaccine

19 March 2020 | News

Luina Bio has entered into an MoU with Griffith University targeting the development of a Coronavirus vaccine

With COVID-19 now declared as a pandemic and world financial markets stumbling, the collaboration between Luina Bio and Griffith University combining Luina Bio's leadership position in the Australian biopharmaceutical industry with the strength of Griffith University's rapid response technology has the potential to make a significant contribution towards a COVID-19 vaccine.

Luina Bio brings its wealth of contract manufacture capabilities and experience to the table, an invaluable component in advancing a potential COVID-19 vaccine candidate. It is one of Australia's most experienced biopharmaceutical contract manufacturing organisations, helping bring biomanufacturing projects from early process development to market.

For its part, Griffith University's Centre for Cell Factories and Biopolymers, at the Griffith Institute for Drug Discovery (GRIDD), has developed a rapid response vaccine platform technology that enables the design and manufacture of a particulate viral vaccine.

The key features of this vaccine platform technology allow for low cost, and large-scale manufacturing of new pilot vaccine candidates ready for pre-clinical and clinical testing against an emerging viral threat. Generation of such candidates can occur in a very short time frame, typically 2-3 months from commencement of the vaccine design process. These features make this technology ideally suited for vaccine development against emerging threats such as the Coronavirus.

Under this MoU, Luina Bio and Griffith University aim to work on a variety of vaccine manufacturing projects over the next 5 years. The technology being used is said to provide unique advantages in achieving a viable vaccine that puts it ahead of others in development. Les Tillack, CEO of Luina Bio says the use of *E. coli* fermentation keeps costs down, can be readily scaled and is a proven technology.