

Medlab Clinical Ltd

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Medlab Clinical expands depression trial recruitment, shares open 5% higher

Medlab Clinical Ltd (ASX:MDC) opened 5% higher at 42 cents after delivering news of an expansion in recruitment for a clinical trial of its patented NRGBiotic™ to treat depression.

The second round of recruitment is underway for the Phase 2a trial led by Brisbane-located Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

This trial has already involved 32 people who experience depression and more volunteers are being sought as QUT and Medlab aim for estimated total participant numbers of 150.

Depression a global issue

The Phase 2a trial has been designed to meet TGA requirements for expedited drug approval.

Globally, more than 300 million people suffer from depression and in Australia, 45% of people aged 16-85 years have met the criteria for a diagnosis of a mental disorder at some point in their lives.

Depression, as a part of mental health, is an Australian health priority.

Principal investigator of the trial, clinical psychologist Dr Esben Strodl from QUT's Institute of Health and Biomedical Innovation, said the study had made good progress with recruitment to date.

"With the start of a new year, a new recruitment phase is being launched with optimism of meeting recruitment targets on time.

"The research team is pleased with the current progress and outcomes of the study," he said.

READ: Medlab Clinical signs deal to launch its nutraceuticals in Priceline Pharmacy

Since 30% of people with depression do not respond to medication, the trial is seeking to show that improving gut health with NRGBiotic™ will make standard depression medicine more effective.

Research corroborates direction

New research just published in Nature Microbiology, from a data sample of 2,000 people in Europe, shows certain strains of bacteria in the gut are depleted in people with depression.

Price: 0.2

Market Cap: \$55.94 m

1 Year Share Price Graph



Share Information

Code: MDC

Listing: ASX

52 week High Low
0.44 0.125

Sector: Cannabis

Website: www.medlab.co

Company Synopsis:

Medlab Clinical Ltd (ASX:MDC) is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

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This adds to mounting evidence of an association between gut health and the brain and corroborates earlier research by Medlab and results from its successful Phase 1 trials of NRGBiotic™.



"On the right track"

Medlab managing director Dr Sean Hall said the combination of trial expansion and recently published European research showed "we have been, and still are, on the right track.

"NRGBiotic™ (patented) is available from pharmacies so we have substantial anecdotal evidence of its positive effects but we're taking the clinical trial route to provide scientific validation and a drug pathway."

Dr Strodl's co-investigators are Dr Matthew Bambling, from University of Queensland's Faculty of Medicine, and Medlab medical director Professor Luis Vitetta.

"Great interest" in recruitment

Dr Bambling said: "Recruitment has gone very well, with great interest from the public and professions alike.

"We continuously receive enquiries from potential participants who are looking for new treatments for their depression."

READ: Medlab Clinical takes EMA and FDA approval track as cannabis research continues

Medlab Clinical, an Australian-based medical life science company, is developing therapeutic pathways for diagnosed chronic diseases.

It is advanced in developing therapies for pain management, depression and obesity as well as earning revenue from the sale of nutritional products in

Australia and the United States.

In pain management, Medlab is developing cannabis-based medicines.

The Medlab developed nano-particle medicine delivery system, Nanocelle™, is being applied to its medicines, nutritional products and off-patent drugs like statins.

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