

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO FIGHT AGAINST JOHNE'S DISEASE

MLA Donor Company, University of Sydney and Animal Health Australia are seeking interested partners to further develop and commercialise a novel vaccine against one of the Australian livestock industry's most problematic diseases.

The problem

Johne's disease is a chronic wasting infection in livestock caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis*. In Australia, the disease has been found in cattle, sheep, goats, deer and camelids.

The disease causes significant economic losses – estimated at approximately \$40 million/year – due to reduced production, increased mortality and stringent trading restrictions.

Infected animals shed the organism in their manure, contaminating pastures and water sources and spreading the infection to other susceptible animals.

Clinical signs of infection can include emaciation (despite a good appetite), diarrhoea, bottle jaw and death.

The solution

MLA Donor Company, University of Sydney and Animal Health Australia have identified a novel vaccine targeting Johne's disease.

While existing vaccines typically assist farmers manage production losses, deaths and disease spread, they fall short of efficacy expectations compared to conventional vaccines. Further the existing vaccines cause a significant injection site reaction which may develop into an abscess and burst. Moreover, the existing vaccines can cause injury to operators if the vaccine is accidentally injected.

Initial trials with the novel vaccine show similar or superior efficacy with a less severe local tissue reaction.

The opportunity

MLA Donor Company, University of Sydney and Animal Health Australia are now seeking interested commercial partners to further develop and commercialise the new vaccine.

MLA Donor Company will co-invest with the successful partners to progress the product¹.

This may involve:

- assessing how the disease responds to the treatment technology
- formulation refinement
- techno-economic assessments
- process design (for cost effective vaccination)
- field testing
- registration/regulatory plan.

Where is it up to?

- Proof of concept has been developed and initial trial has been completed in cattle.
- A provisional patent application has been filed.

More information

For more information or to register your interest in partnering with MLA Donor Company, University of Sydney and Animal Health Australia, please contact:

Amanda McAlpine

MLA Program Manager - Commercialisation & Intellectual Property

M: 0406 428 395 E: amcalpine@mla.com.au

¹Any application will be subject to the normal MDC approval process