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MIPS and Starpharma awarded STEM+ Business Fellowships to further targeted delivery technologies for cancer

The ARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent Bio-Nano Science and Technology (CBNS) at the Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS) and biotechnology company Starpharma have been awarded two grants from the Federal Government's Science and Industry Endowment Fund STEM+ Business Fellowship Program to further their work in targeted delivery approaches to cancer. SIEF and Starpharma will together fund \$601,712 to further advance programs utilising Starpharma's DEP® drug delivery platform.

The program will evaluate the use of antibody conjugated DEP® conjugates to enhance concentration of drug at the disease site, improving activity and reducing off-target toxicity.

Starpharma has previously released highly encouraging targeted DEP® Herceptin® conjugate study results in an ovarian cancer model (16 November 2015 and 2 February 2016) and also continues to work closely with two world-leading antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) companies on additional Targeted DEP® programs.

Dr Daniel Yuen and Dr Leo Noi will take up the STEM+ Business Fellowships and will work with Dr Angus Johnston and Professor Chris Porter

"We are delighted to collaborate once again with the leading researchers in drug delivery from Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences. This collaboration will further intensify activities around our novel targeted DEP® conjugates and is expected to generate exciting technical results that will translate into considerable commercial benefits by way of new intellectual property and commercialisation opportunities for Starpharma" said Starpharma's CEO, Dr Jackie Fairley.

"The SIEF STEM+ business fellowship program is a great opportunity to further our long standing and highly successful collaboration with Starpharma and to further develop next generation targeting approaches for the DEP® dendrimer drug delivery platform" said Professor Porter.

The Science and Industry Endowment Fund (SIEF) provides grants to science and scientists for the purposes of assisting Australian industry, furthering the interests of the Australian community and contributing to the achievement of Australian national objectives.

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