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Ondek Awarded \$920,000 for Clinical Study of Allergy Product

Australian biotechnology company Ondek Pty Ltd today announced it has been awarded an NH&MRC Development Grant of \$919,596 to subsidise a clinical trial on its first allergy product. The trial will be conducted with its clinical partners, Professor Susan Prescott and Professor Peter Richmond, Princess Margaret Hospital for Children in Perth, and Professor Kate Allen, The Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne.

Ondek is focused on the development of innovative healthcare products using the pioneering discoveries of Australian Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall. The company is developing natural and safe immune modulatory products, based on a patented derivative "OND86" of the stomach bug *Helicobacter pylori*. OND86 does not colonise the gut and does not survive in the host, yet it exhibits an immune modulatory response in the mouse, similar to the live bacterium.

The founder of Ondek, Professor Marshall, said "we are delighted to have the backing of our peers in championing this grant and validating the approach we are taking to the management of allergy. The funds will be used to subsidise the costs of a clinical trial to demonstrate the safety and optimal dose of OND86 in adults."

The prevalence of asthma and allergy has increased dramatically over the past three decades and has been linked to increasingly cleaner environments and reduced exposure to bacteria in childhood. Over 25% of infants in Australia present with eczema and more than 20% of 1 year olds are food sensitized. More than 25% of children have asthma and 40% of adults have a history of allergic rhinitis. These trends have been observed in all developed countries and are now emerging in the urbanized environments of China and other developing nations.

There is currently no cure for these allergies. The majority of products in the market may provide short term relief, and many contain corticosteroids, which are not recommended for sustained use. Consequently, there are very large market opportunities in non-prescription & prescription medicines targeting immune health and food allergies. Ondek will target the spectrum of allergy indications, beginning with allergic rhinitis and food allergies in adults and adolescents, and subsequently eczema and food allergies in children.

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About Ondek

Ondek Pty Ltd is an Australian biotechnology company developing natural and safe immune modulatory products, where the largest market opportunity is in allergic disorders.

Ondek will develop its novel allergy products as natural and safe remedies with supporting efficacy data. The products will be marketed (at least in the first instance) as non-prescription medicines where there are lower regulatory hurdles, lower costs and less time to market than prescription drugs. It is anticipated that the first products will be market-ready in 3-4 years.

Ondek was founded by Professor Barry Marshall, a world authority and co-discoverer of the *Helicobacter pylori* organism and co-recipient of the 2005 Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology.

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