



ASX Release  
21<sup>st</sup> November 2019

## **MEMPHASYS & PARTNERS AWARDED ~A\$550,000 ARC LINKAGE GRANT**

### **Highlights:**

- **Memphasys in conjunction with UNSW Sydney and Newcastle University awarded a three (3) year A\$549,452 ARC Linkage Grant**
- **Funding will go towards research into development of scaling and optimising an efficient cell separation technology that could add significant commercial value to the Australian biomanufacturing sector**
- **The cell separation technology would be used for both humans and animals, including for a next generation Felix device and also a device for animal artificial insemination**

Australian-based bio-separations company Memphasys Limited (ASX: MEM) ("Memphasys" or "the Company"), together with its research partners, advises it has been awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage grant of A\$549,452. Memphasys will also provide an additional \$60,000 p.a. contribution to the program over the 3 years.

The grant is for the development of the next generation cell sorters to scale the production of viable sperm cells and other cell types using electrophoretic technology.

The project will be led jointly by world renowned fertility expert and co-inventor of the Felix technology, Professor John Aitken, and Dr Robert Nordon. Dr Nordon is the inventor of the Quantum Cell Expansion System, a unique, closed, automated system enabling large scale expansion of cells for clinical therapies, marketed globally by Terumo BCT.

Other academics from UNSW Sydney, University of Newcastle and Memphasys personnel will also be part of the joint research team.

Commenting on the award, Memphasys Executive Chairman Alison Coutts said:

*"ARC Linkage Project funding grants are awarded after an extensive independent peer review of the project and the supporting science. We are pleased Memphasys' research programs into development of next generation cell sorters have been recognised in the current round of awards.*

*"This research will be focused on development of scaled up and efficient cell separation technology to be used for both humans and animals, including for a next generation Felix device and a device for animal artificial insemination.*

*"The successful development of this cell separation technology could add significant commercial value to the Australian biomanufacturing sector and importantly to MEM's current cell separation and IVF technology."*

Professor Aitken added:

*“Our approach, as part of this research project, is to further understand the factors that control the migration of cells in an electric field so that we can design large-scale devices to purify cells using electrophoretic separation.*

*“We anticipate outcomes of this research will enhance and widen the application of the current Felix device by enabling large-scale production of viable sperm for human and animal-assisted conception, benefiting infertile couples and the livestock breeding industry.”*

ARC's Linkage funding schemes aim to encourage and extend cooperative approaches to research and improve the use of research outcomes by strengthening links within Australia's innovation system and with innovation systems internationally. Linkage promotes national and international research partnerships between researchers and business, industry, community, organisations and other publicly funded research agencies.

By supporting the development of partnerships, ARC encourages the transfer of skills, knowledge and ideas as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.

ENDS

**For further information please contact:**

Alison Coutts  
Executive Chairman  
Memphasys Limited  
T: +61 2 8415 7300  
E: [alison.coutts@memphasys.com](mailto:alison.coutts@memphasys.com)

David Tasker  
Managing Director  
Chapter One Advisors  
T: +0433 112 936  
E: [dtasker@chapteroneadvisors.com.au](mailto:dtasker@chapteroneadvisors.com.au)

**About Memphasys:**

Memphasys Limited (ASX: MEM) specialises in biological separations for high value commercial applications. The Company's patented membrane processes in combination with electrophoresis, the application of an electrical potential difference across a fluid, enable the separation of high value substances or contaminants from the fluid in which they are contained. The main application of the technology is the separation of the most viable sperm cells for artificial reproduction, most particularly for human IVF.