



ASX & MEDIA RELEASE

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MEDLAB'S DEPRESSION TRIAL RECRUITMENT EXPANDS, NEW RESEARCH CORROBORATES DIRECTION

- Second round of recruitment for clinical trial of Medlab's patented NRGBiotic™ to treat depression
- Queensland University of Technology (QUT) led trial designed to meet TGA requirements for expedited drug approval
- New European research corroborates link between gut health and depression

A second round of recruitment is beginning for a clinical trial of NRGBiotic™, developed by Australian life sciences company, Medlab Clinical Ltd (ASX: MDC), for treatment of depression.

The Phase 2a trial led by Brisbane located QUT has already involved 32 people who experience depression and more volunteers are being sought. Total participant numbers are estimated at 150. Since 30 per cent 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.

New research just published in *Nature Microbiology*¹, from a data sample of 2000 people in Europe, shows certain strains of bacteria in the gut are depleted in people with depression.

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™.

According to Medlab managing director, Dr Sean Hall, 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 Hall said.

Principal investigator of the trial is QUT's Dr Esben Strodl with co-investigators being Dr Matthew Bambling from University of Queensland and Medlab Medical director, Professor Luis Vitetta.

Principal investigator, 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," Dr Strodl said.

Co-investigators, Dr Matthew Bambling from University of Queensland's Faculty of Medicine said the research team was very pleased with the quality and progress of the trial.

"Recruitment has gone very well, with great interest from the public and professions alike. We continuously receive enquires from potential participants who are looking for new treatments for their depression," Dr Bambling said.

Globally, more than [300 million people](#) suffer from depression and in Australia, [45 per cent 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 part of mental health) is an [Australian health priority](#).

¹ Valles-Colomer M et al, "The Neuroactive potential of the human gut microbiota in quality of life and depression", *Nature Microbiology*, 4 February 2019

Further information and registration for the trial is available at qut.to/c8b7r, with participation inquiries to Dr Sophie Parham or Dr Gabrielle Ritchie at depression@qut.edu.au or 07 3138 6090.

ISSUED FOR: MEDLAB CLINICAL LTD (ASX: MDC) – www.medlab.co

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: DR SEAN HALL, CEO, MEDLAB CLINICAL
TEL: +61 2 8203 9520, sean_hall@medlab.co

ISSUED BY: HILL + KNOWLTON STRATEGIES, MARCHA VAN DEN HEUVEL
TEL +61 2 9286 1226 OR +61 468 960 457, marcha.vandenheuvel@hkstrategies.com

ABOUT MEDLAB – www.medlab.co

Medlab Clinical is an Australian based medical life science company, 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 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. Medlab has a growing patent portfolio.