

MEDIA RELEASE

PARTNERHIP to BOOST VITAL RESEARCH CAPACITY in CELL THERAPIES

Research Infrastructure Support Services Ltd. (RISS) recently entered into a partnership with the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS) in an initiative that will progress the highly innovative area of research in cellular therapies.

RISS provides NCRIS grant funding on behalf of the federal Dept. Innovation Industry Science and Research for eligible facilities in the manufacturing field of human cellular therapies. To operate in this field, facility “clean-rooms” must hold a Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) licence by following the stringent Code for Good Manufacturing Practice.

RISS Chairman Mr. Terry Slater said “The partnership aims to increase support for cell therapy research by increasing the number of licensed facilities and quality resources in this field, and ultimately increasing the overall infrastructure for research in Australia”.

The ARCBS has established a Quality System Framework for clean rooms, providing clean room users and researchers with a template and a process to ensure they comply with TGA requirements. The framework is currently in use at establishments such as Melbourne’s Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

Mr. Terry Slater went on to say “The Blood Service quality framework is very adaptable and resilient, so that laboratories that conduct vital research in the area of human cell therapy manufacture and can achieve and maintain their TGA compliance”.

Dr Coghlan of the ARCBS Transplantation Services echoed Mr. Slater’s comments saying that the joint venture with the Blood Service would “enable RISS to make a significant contribution to the field of cellular research in Australia”.

He went on to say that his organisation’s expertise in the field of Quality Management “make this partnership an ideal platform for advances in the cellular research field and the overall potential human benefit from this opportunity cannot be ignored”.

Through the partnership with RISS, the ARCBS Quality Team is funded to provide free gap analyses and cost effective quality consulting services to facilities where “gaps” in compliance can be identified. RISS and the ARCBS can then offer a road map and subsidise a support program to close the gap to achieve licensing.

“This means that a far greater number of human cell therapies could be researched and advanced to actual practical application – the entire human cell therapies landscape would be advanced as a result. “ Dr. Coghlan said.

Interested researchers and clean room facilities can contact RISS on 03-9863 1635 or via the web on www.RISSLTD.com for more information about funding under this partnership.

FOR INTERVIEW OR PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES PLEASE CONTACT:

James Aanensen, National Media Officer, Australian Red Cross Blood Service on 0410 518 590.

