THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

Queensland Government

EMORY UNIVERSITY

QEDDI

THE QUEENSLAND EMORY DRUG DISCOVERY INITIATIVE

Translating academic research into new medicines

The Queensland Emory Drug Discovery Initiative (QEDDI) is a UQ-owned, dedicated small molecule drug discovery and development group. QEDDI's goal is to leverage UQ research and accelerate the development of new drugs that offer tangible clinical benefit.

It will build core capabilities in industry-based project management, medicinal chemistry and *in vitro* pharmacology. QEDDI will bring together UQ research experts with drug discovery scientists recruited from industry through collaboration in focused project teams.

QEDDI was established in 2015 by and as a business unit of UQ's main commercialisation company, UniQuest in collaboration with Emory University and is supported by the Queensland Government through the Advance Queensland Initiative. Projects will be selected for QEDDI support based on commercial potential, unmet clinical need and input from an independent industry advisory committee.

QEDDI will bridge the gap (the so-called "valley of death") in translating innovative discoveries into small molecule drug candidates and ultimately new therapeutic drugs. Combining industry-disciplined medicinal chemistry and screening, QEDDI will work together with UQ researchers on novel and disease relevant biology to identify small molecule drug candidates that could progress towards clinical development through partnership or investment.

PROJECTED OUTCOMES

QEDDI will compliment and add significant value to the rich knowledge base of disease pathways and target biology held by UQ's research teams.

By accelerating UQ research to the stage of novel molecules, QEDDI is expected to increase the probability of the research striking a commercialisation partnership (investment, start-up or industry partnership) and progressing the technology into the clinic with the aim of helping treat unmet medical needs.

SELECTION PROCESS

There will be a call for expressions of interest for projects to enter QEDDI.

In the first stage, applicants will complete a brief expression of interest form. Projects will be reviewed against commercial and scientific criteria. The projects selected for progression will be outlined in a formal proposal document, which will be jointly prepared between the proposing researcher and QEDDI.

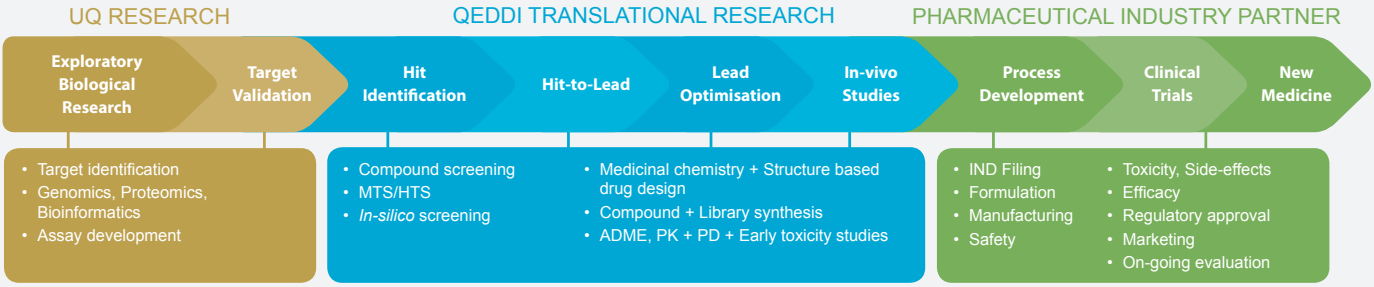
Following review by a target advisory committee, projects will be selected for QEDDI. A full project plan would be developed in collaboration with the UQ researcher, taking into account feedback from the advisory committee, to define the target compound profile, assay cascade, assay providers, resourcing, budget and go/no go decision points.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selected project proposals will be reviewed by an independent target advisory committee against a set of commercial and scientific criteria.

Key criteria covering both domains are the clinical need in the target indications, differentiation from competitor therapeutics and feasibility of the clinical development path.

FACILITIES



Located within the Queensland Bioscience Precinct and using the research infrastructure of UQ's Institute for Molecular Bioscience, QEDDI will operate dedicated facilities for medicinal chemistry, computational chemistry and compound screening, to be deployed in projects maintaining dynamic and open communication and collaboration with UQ research groups. Additional capabilities within the QEDDI team will include industry-experienced project management, CRO management and DMPK expertise.

QEDDI will also have access to a network of contract research organisations (CRO's), which can provide specialist support for further drug discovery support or pre-clinical development, such as in vivo efficacy and early toxicology studies.

As a UniQuest business unit, QEDDI will benefit from in-house expertise in intellectual property, industry engagement, project management and legal support.

CAPABILITIES

QEDDI has capabilities to support the prosecution of the key phases in a drug discovery program.

› HIT IDENTIFICATION
Identification of chemical hits for a specific target.

› RATIONAL DESIGN
SAR development using rational drug design and structure-based drug design to support hit-to-lead and lead optimisation.

› LEAD DISCOVERY AND OPTIMISATION
Iterative compound optimisation to achieve desired efficacy, safety and DMPK profile in a pre-clinical development candidate.

Staffed with medicinal chemists and biologists, QEDDI will have the capabilities, expertise and networks to advance targets from hit identification through lead optimisation towards preclinical development developing a pipeline of therapeutic drug candidates for disease relevant biology. This will be carried out in close collaboration with the research group that has discovered the initial biology.

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

QEDDI will aim to develop high quality data packages for partnering opportunities for a pipeline of novel therapeutic, validated and de-risked drug leads, based on UQ's most innovative biological research.

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› For more information visit www.qeddi.com.au

UNIQUEST

The main commercialisation company of
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