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## ***Movember launches new Global Action Plan initiative: The Prostate Cancer Xenograft project***

17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012

Movember today announces the launch of a supplementary project under its Global Action Plan (GAP) prostate cancer biomarker initiative – **The GAP1 xenograft project**.

**The GAP1 xenograft project** will be of two years duration and will ultimately be a single unified global project that will involve researchers from around the world collaborating as a team to integrate their xenograft activities to maximise the value of patient cohorts. The aim is to assist in characterization and utility of existing prostate cancer xenografts and to produce new highly valuable prostate cancer xenograft models that can facilitate a better understanding of metastasis, treatment response and treatment resistance in castration resistant prostate cancer.

There are core trans-regional xenograft capabilities known to Movember. The objective of the initiative is to leverage existing capabilities that exists in various locations around the world, and further exploit specialized expertise in xenografting fresh patient tumours into mouse models of prostate cancer via international collaboration. This will allow greater characterization and access to existing xenografts to address specific scientific questions and provide significantly larger sample numbers and greater statistical significance than efforts conducted in a disparate fashion.

As part of the initiative, it will be important for the global xenograft project team to collaborate with those studying particular biomarkers or pathways to develop strategies that best utilise these precious samples. The aim is for these xenograft models to be easily surveyed for appropriateness to answer a given scientific or biomarker question, and in turn made available to the wider research community to progress biomarker investigation, in consultation and collaboration with Movember and the creators of the xenograft models.

Movember will invest **AUD \$1.2 million** into this project.

### **Project context and requirements**

Movember acknowledges that high quality xenografts currently exist. These existing xenografts with annotation and current characterization should be incorporated into the xenograft models project, to strengthen and complement the development of additional prospective xenografts.



To maximise efforts, existing and prospective xenograft tissue samples will be combined into high quality TMAs and made available for collaboration with the prostate cancer research community to progress the investigation of biomarkers. For further characterization and utility, xenografts that are used to monitor systemic therapy or re-growth of tumour tissue to monitor treatment resistance patterns, should also be incorporated into TMAs. The characterization of xenografts via TMAs probed for different biomarkers should be made available to the prostate cancer research community in a unified format.

A participating laboratory should be able to contribute at least 5-10 *primary* xenografts from patients with metastatic and/or castration resistant disease, which may also be used to identify markers secreted into the mouse bloodstream (note: within a 2 year time period).

Serum markers from animals undergoing (for example) docetaxel treatment will also be collected, and responses to the therapy assessed in parallel. As this is primarily a biomarker initiative, having the ability to collect blood from the original (human) patient, against which a comparison can be made to the secretome, would be a distinct advantage. It would be preferable for previous grafts to have matching serum stored.

Assessment of the ability of primary xenografts to model human disease and to produce reproducible markers of metastatic or castration resistant disease is the primary outcome of this project.

It is important that each participating centre already has the appropriate expertise, facilities, and ability to propagate these tumours over the course of the project.

It will be critical that ethical permissions are in place or quickly able to be put in place to comply with the time scale of the award.

**A mandatory expectation for involvement in, and the appropriation of funds as part of the project, will be the sharing of material created throughout the project so that these models can be utilized by the wider prostate cancer research community as a resource to further validate promising prostate cancer biomarkers and optimize treatment outcomes for men with advanced disease.**

### **EOI Information**

Through an expression of interest (EOI) process, Movember seeks to identify interested researchers.

To express interest in the project, please email Dr Mark Buzza, GAP Program Manager at [xenografts@movember.com](mailto:xenografts@movember.com) outlining the relevant xenografting capabilities that your group possesses (in 5 pages or less), including:

- Principal Investigators and Co-Investigators
- Research Institution
- Xenograft expertise, capabilities and track record, including relevant publications
- Specific xenografting methods employed, related publications and an outline of why the xenograft method was chosen
- Data relating to the yield / take rate of xenografts in your laboratory
- If the xenografting technique is novel, outline how the new methodology is innovative and allows for a high uptake of xenografts
- Expertise in developing TMAs
- Clinical questions or hypotheses which could be addressed as part of the project
- Number and characterization of existing human xenografts
- Access to relevant prospective metastatic or CRPC patient samples (please identify relevant patient cohorts and outline potential treatment regimens able to be xenografted)
- Relative numbers of xenografts able to be created prospectively per annum
- Matched samples of urine, serum/plasma, other tissue from the patient the tumour was taken from, and the mice the tumour was implanted into
- Current relevant collaborations with Investigators involved in both xenografting and biomarker validation
- Capacity to obtain ethics approval in a reasonable timeframe to participate in such a project
- The ability to share resources and xenografts created as part of a global collaboration

After the EOI closes there will be a period of analysis to determine where potential synergies and collaboration opportunities exist at a trans-regional level before GAP integrated project teams are assembled.



### Key dates

Expression of interest launched – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2012

**Expressions of interest close - 5pm Friday 1st February 2013 AEST**

Movember expects to be in a position to appropriate funding for this project in **April 2013**.

Funding will be for a maximum of 2 years from the time of award.

### The Movember Global Action Plan (GAP)

GAP is Movember's Global Action Plan. Launched in 2011, it was established to address critical challenges in prostate cancer research through global collaboration. As a result of working with our Men's Health Partners around the world, Movember identified an opportunity to accelerate research outcomes by providing researchers from around the world the opportunity to work together on specific projects that meet critical clinical questions.

By bringing together the leading international clinicians and researchers, GAP facilitates a new and unprecedented level of global research collaboration, not previously seen within the prostate cancer community.

### About Movember

Since its beginnings in 2003 in Melbourne Australia, Movember has grown to become a global men's health movement inspiring millions of Mo Bros and Mo Sistas to participate.

During November each year, Movember is responsible for the sprouting of moustaches on thousands of men's faces around the world, the aim of which is to raise funds and awareness for men's health issues, specifically prostate cancer and male mental health.

In 2012, the global Movember community of 1.1 million Mo Bros and Mo Sistas, raised over AUD \$120 million for men's health programs.

Movember funds programs both directly and through its Men's Health Partners. The Movember Global Action Plan is a key initiative undertaken directly by Movember.