

## Eureka TechIN offers Aussie scientists \$500,000 for research



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Australian scientists working on [COVID-19](#) responses have an opportunity to tap into a new \$500,000 research grant being offered by private innovation and investment firm Eureka Technology Innovation and Investment (Eureka TechIN).

The Eureka Research Fund for Immunology and Virology launched on Thursday will support three fields of research: anti-virus and anti-bacteria, immunity and stem cell.



The grant aims to fast track existing anti-virus research or facilitate new teams coming together. *Peter Braig*

The call for the first round of applications will be focused on anti-virus research.

The fund aims to accelerate existing research efforts or kick off new collaborative projects, the Melbourne-headquartered firm said.

The research can be focused on developing new [COVID-19 testing](#) methods, finding a [prevention or cure](#), or technology related to the virus, which has infected more than 1.5 million people globally and killed more than 80,000.

"We will provide scientists with the funds they need to collaborate on a shared goal," said Dr Ruchong Ou, a member of Eureka TechIN's advisory board and a senior research fellow at Monash University and Alfred Hospital. "Then, we access the best business and manufacturing expertise to cooperatively bring their discoveries out into the community."

"With the rapid development of COVID-19, we want to create a network of the

brightest Australian minds, all sharing expertise and resources to address this critical global issue."

Additional benefits include creating jobs and helping to stop a "brain drain" of scientific talent away from Australia.



"Australian scientists are among the best in the world and with this grant they can hire the right personnel to establish a new joint research project with other scientists," said Dr Ou.

The fund will be managed by Eureka TechIN from application review to monitoring and evaluation.

The advisory board includes Associate Professor David Anderson, the deputy director of the Burnet Institute and founder and CEO of Nanjing BioPoint Diagnostics; and Professor Paul Hertzog, who heads the Centre for Immunity and Infectious Diseases and is associate director of the Hudson Institute of Medical Research.

Eureka TechIN was created in 2017 and is affiliated with China's Eureka International Group, which has business interests spanning food and beverage, agriculture, construction and financial services.

EIG own companies such as UGG TASMAN (Australia's own UGG brand), Feeling Fruity Juice Co, Australia Skypac Financial Group and property developer E.I.G Developments Pty Ltd.

Eureka TechIN has established strategic partnerships with Zhongguancun Group (China's Silicon Valley), City of Jinan, Australia China Health Accelerator, and the Australia Chinese Association for Chinese Biomedical Sciences.

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