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## News

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### Roche backs Aussie autoimmune research 22/11/2016

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**Hudson Institute of Medical Research and Monash University have announced a new research collaboration with Swiss-based Roche to develop next generation treatments for inflammatory and other autoimmune diseases, expected to be ready for human trials in three to five years.**

The partnership will enable the multi-disciplinary research team and Roche to work together to advance and translate intellectual property into novel treatments. The amount of funding was not disclosed due to a confidentiality agreement.

The Hudson Institute's Associate Professor Marcel Nold said the focus of the research was to develop one or several novel molecular pathways to translate new and existing research into biologic drug development.

A major part of the research program involves the use of new structural biology technology available at Monash including nanocrystallisation robotics, and the FEI Titan KRIOS, a multi-million-dollar electron microscope that will be used to guide the design of new biologic drugs, Associate Professor Nold said.

"It is a little early to tell what the outcomes will be but it is a work in progress with our partners in inflammatory and autoimmune diseases," he said.

"The capability of the technology is so wide, which is a great strength; the technology could also become applicable to the common cold."

Based on results from the research collaboration, Roche has the rights option to exclusively licence the intellectual property for development and commercialisation of proteins targeting novel molecular pathways, in return for significant development and commercial milestones payments and royalties on product sales.

The collaboration has arisen from work performed by Associate Professor Nold and Dr Claudia Nold from the Hudson Institute and Monash University's Department of Paediatrics, and Dr James Whisstock and Dr Andrew Ellsdon from the Monash Biomedicine Discovery Institute.

Melbourne's Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre was recently [announced](#) as one of 21 members in the new Roche cancer immunotherapy Centres of Research Excellence (imCore) Network.

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