

Breaking News: UPplus selected as Tier 1 Anti-COVID-19 Priority Project



In collaboration with Monash University Biomedical Institute, Upcare Group's fully owned research arm Apex Biotech has signed a research agreement with the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunology (Doherty Institute), a joint venture between the University of Melbourne and the Royal Melbourne Hospital, following selection of two of its existing assets for the Doherty Institute's Testing Program for SARS-CoV-2 Antiviral Drugs Program.

Both compounds were assessed as "Group 1 priority" candidates. The program guidelines define, Group 1 candidates as having the "highest or strong likelihood of antiviral efficacy - compounds in this grouping will be eligible for Tier 1 laboratory testing."

The Doherty Institute is a centre of excellence of leading scientists, clinicians and researchers dedicated to the prevention, treatment and cure of infectious diseases. The Doherty Institute investigates a wide variety of infectious diseases but has pivoted its expertise towards the COVID-19 response. Notably, the Doherty Institute gained international prominence in the fight against COVID-19 in January 2020 when it became the first centre outside China to grow the SARS-CoV-2 strain in cell culture and share with laboratories across the world.

Antiviral candidates for the testing program were assessed by an independent Scientific Review Panel of experts in virology, antivirals and the clinical trials of antiviral drugs.

Apex's assets UPPLUS compounds were selected based on a detailed review of available existing data; as well as additional pre-clinical data supporting their rationale for use as anti-viral therapies.