

CAPRINZ PUBLIC SUMMARY

Contract reporting for the period ending 29 February 2020

The CAPRINZ programme began in August 2018 and will grow a sustainable, high-value goat milk infant formula industry in New Zealand. Goat milk infant formula is a premium, niche export product, providing sustainable payouts for farmers. The CAPRINZ programme will protect this premium by providing consumers and health care professionals with information on the benefits of goat milk infant formula that are backed by clinical science and delivered through sustainable farm systems.

Breastfeeding is the best source of nutrition for newborns and infants. Our aim through this PGP programme with MPI is to provide consumers and health care professionals with science-based information to allow them to make the best decision in situations where breastfeeding requires supplementation or isn't feasible.

Progress Summary:

Good progress continues with the significant impact areas for the CAPRINZ programme. In the previous quarter, we summarised progress with the Pilot Farm, which will conduct scientifically robust farm system trials under commercial farming conditions to generate new knowledge for dairy goat farmers.

This quarter we can report on progress with a significant nutritional trial. The GiraFFE nutritional trial will generate scientific and public health information on the development of allergies and overall wellbeing and growth of children and the impact of early feeding with goat milk formula on those health parameters. Health care professionals can use this information when advising clients or patients on feeding options when exclusive breastfeeding is not feasible or when transitioning from breastfeeding to formula-feeding. It is expected that recruitment will commence in Europe in May¹ 2020.

In December 2019, a conference poster was presented by Dr Liz Carpenter at the Australian and NZ Society for Immunology. The poster was part of a wider project to provide mechanistic insight into inflammatory and allergic diseases that might guide novel therapeutic approaches. The research presented showed that a specific population of immune cells (MAIT cells) play a role in the development of eczema skin inflammation. MAIT cells patrol mucosal sites in the body, e.g. the skin and lungs, and this study has shown that MAIT cells can also traffic to the skin, another mucosal site in the body. This work was undertaken by Dr Katherine Woods, in the Translational Immunology team at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research.

Investment

	DGC contribution	MPI contribution	Total investment
During this quarter	\$0.502 m	\$0.335 m	\$0.837 m
Programme to date	\$3.014 m	\$2.009 m	\$5.023 m

¹ The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic have not factored into this statement