

# Canadian med companies join to further research in Australia

## HEALTHCARE | BIOTECHNOLOGY

Two Canadian medical companies are teaming up and expanding their business down under with cannabis.

The Australian government's Department of Health has granted three permits for cannabis imports to health sciences company **PreveCeutical Medical Inc.** ([CSE:PREV](#), [OTCQB:PRVCF, Forum](#)) and medical cannabis producer **Aurora Cannabis Inc.** ([TSX:ACB](#), [OTCQB:ACBFF, Forum](#)). The permits allow the companies to import cannabis plant material, such as dried cannabis flower and oils into Australia for research purposes.

The cannabis plant material will be used for what PreveCeutical believes to be the first cannabinoid-based, nose-to-brain, delivery system. The advantage of Sol-gels is its nasal formulation is water-soluble and alcohol-free, making it safe for children.

The Sol-gel delivery system is distinct from other contemporary delivery systems. It bypasses first pass metabolism in the stomach, intestines and liver exhibiting a dramatic improvement in bioavailability, or effectiveness, even compared to nasal sprays and alternative delivery mechanisms. Unlike other delivery systems, PreveCeutical's Sol-gel delivery technology enables ease of application and provides long-lasting effects, while reducing negative side-effects.

Through these permits, PreveCeutical can test a number of cannabis strains for the development of cannabinoid (CBD)-based Sol-gels and have them available for the commercial market. PreveCeutical's goal is to become a leader in preventive health sciences. The market has

been seeing a lot of attention in recent years. The Global Wellness Institute estimates that [the global wellness economy hit \\$3.7 trillion in 2017](#). Preventative and personalized medicine accounted for \$534 billion.

Stephen Van Deventer, PreveCeutical's CEO and Chairman added, "We are extremely excited to receive the permits, allowing us to further our Sol-gel research program with the high-quality cannabis products provided by Aurora. The goal of the program is to cultivate a range of therapies that will benefit people with ailments such as epilepsy, pain and inflammation, safely and economically."

The permits were granted to the Pharmacy Australia Centre of Excellence (PACE) at the University of Queensland (UQ). Aurora also received the required Canadian permits to export the cannabis to PACE. Through this partnership, Aurora has received the right to license this technology for Canada and Australia. Aurora can also opt for a royalty arrangement on product sales, as well as to purchase shares in PreveCeutical.

The added boost from a heavyweight like Aurora helps PreveCeutical commercialize products developed in its R&D pipeline.

The Sol-gel program is one of its five main research and development operations, which also include:

- Dual gene therapy for curative and prevention therapies for type 2 diabetes and obesity
- Nature Identical peptides for treatment of various ailments



*Dr. Parekh, Chief Research Officer*

- Non-addictive pain reliever peptides as a replacement to the highly addictive pain relievers such as morphine, fentanyl and oxycodone
- A therapeutic product for treating athletes who suffer from concussions (mild traumatic brain injury)

One product PreveCeutical has available is CELLB9®, an immune system booster. This oral solution is sourced from Caribbean Blue Scorpion venom. The Company is working on a nature identical compound for scorpion venom.

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