MEDIA RELEASE

Supporting International Clinical Trials Day is a Vote for Australian Innovation

- International Clinical Trials Day recognises the essential contribution of researchers and patient volunteers in finding safe and effective treatments for disease through clinical trials.
- A vibrant clinical trials ecosystem within Australia is good for patients, researchers and the innovation economy.
- Novartis is one of the largest pharmaceutical clinical trial investors in Australia, with trials in every state.

Sydney, May 20, 2016 – As one of the largest pharmaceutical investors in clinical trials in Australia, the Novartis group of companies (Novartis Pharmaceuticals, Sandoz and Alcon) is today supporting International Clinical Trials Day. The date commemorates the day in 1747 that James Lind began his clinical trial into treatments for scurvy.

Managing Director and Country President, Brian Gladsden said, “Each year Novartis invests millions of dollars to conduct clinical trials in all major capital cities and many regional and rural centres throughout Australia. This investment in local innovation supports jobs in the healthcare sector, but most importantly it provides early access for Australian patients to the latest developmental medicines being trialled in disease areas such as cancer, heart disease and respiratory diseases.

Novartis welcomes the bipartisan approach to improving the environment for clinical trials in Australia. We would encourage further collaboration between State and Federal Government to ensure patients can access the latest trials,” Brian concluded.

For information about Australian clinical trials patients can navigate to www.australianclinicaltrials.gov.au. The Government portal allows patients to search for clinical trials in Australia and sources information from a number of local and global sources such as anzctr.org.au and clinicaltrials.gov.

About Novartis
Novartis provides innovative healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. Headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, Novartis offers a diversified portfolio to best meet these needs: innovative medicines, eye care and cost-saving generic pharmaceuticals. We have more than 60 years’ history in Australia and employ around 800 associates across our three divisions. We believe continued R&D is essential to innovation and in Australia we invest around AUD$20m annually in local clinical trials. Our mission is to discover new ways to improve and extend people’s lives.

Novartis is on Twitter. Sign up to follow @Novartis at http://twitter.com/novartis.

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