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Biotechnology & Health:

Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical News

A significant merger has created Australasia's largest integrated clinical trial network, combining Momentum Clinical Research and Pacific Clinical Research Network. This new entity will manage large-scale trials from early-stage to later phases, attracting more global investment and accelerating access to innovative treatments. In corporate news, the specialty vaccine company Valneva SE has received marketing authorization from Health Canada for its single-dose chikungunya vaccine, Ixchiq. This marks another major milestone in making the vaccine accessible to a broader age range and combating the spread of the mosquito-borne disease.

Health & Public Policy

In a landmark public health achievement, the World Health Organization (WHO) has verified that Nepal has eliminated rubella as a public health problem. This milestone is part of the WHO South-East Asia Region's commitment to eliminate both measles and rubella by 2026. India is also making significant progress, with officials reporting high vaccination coverage and a new nationwide campaign to reach every child. On the academic front, the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India has implemented a new policy banning the teaching of healthcare-related subjects, such as biotechnology and microbiology, through online and distance learning modes to ensure quality standards and practical exposure.

New Research and Technology

Researchers have developed a groundbreaking cancer treatment using "Trojan Horse" bacteria. The engineered bacteria are designed to smuggle cancer-killing viruses directly into tumors, a method that bypasses the immune system and delivers a targeted, powerful attack. In diagnostics, a new, inexpensive, and ultra-sensitive blood test called NasRED has been developed by engineers at Arizona State University. The test, which uses gold nanoparticles, can detect deadly infections like COVID-19, Ebola, HIV, and Lyme disease within 15 minutes for just about \$2, making it a potential game-changer for early detection in low-resource settings.

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2. Which country has the WHO verified as having eliminated rubella as a public health problem?

- a) India
- b) Nepal
- c) Australia
- d) Canada

Answer: b) Nepal

The news highlights that the "World Health Organization (WHO) has verified that Nepal has eliminated rubella as a public health problem."

3. What new technology is being used to develop a "Trojan Horse" bacteria cancer treatment?

- a) Gold nanoparticles
- b) Engineered bacteria that smuggle viruses into tumors
- c) A new blood test called NasRED
- d) Online and distance learning for microbiology

Answer: b) Engineered bacteria that smuggle viruses into tumors

The text describes a new cancer treatment where "engineered bacteria are designed to smuggle cancer-killing viruses directly into tumors."

4. What is the name of the new, inexpensive blood test developed by engineers at Arizona State University?

- a) Ixchiq
- b) NasRED
- c) WHO
- d) Momentum

Answer: b) NasRED

The provided information mentions, "a new, inexpensive, and ultra-sensitive blood test called NasRED has been developed by engineers at Arizona State University."

MCQS

1. What has been created by the merger of Momentum Clinical Research and Pacific Clinical Research Network?

- a) The world's largest vaccine company
- b) Australasia's largest integrated clinical trial network
- c) A new pharmaceutical manufacturing hub
- d) A new research center for genetic diseases

Answer: b) Australasia's largest integrated clinical trial network

The provided text states that "A significant merger has created Australasia's largest integrated clinical trial network, combining Momentum Clinical Research and Pacific Clinical Research Network."





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5. What action has the University Grants Commission (UGC) in India taken regarding healthcare-related subjects?

- a) It has approved more online courses for biotechnology.
- b) It has banned the teaching of certain healthcare-related subjects through online and distance learning.
- c) It has partnered with a new clinical trial network.
- d) It has launched a new nationwide vaccination campaign.

Answer: b) It has banned the teaching of certain healthcare-related subjects through online and distance learning.

The text states that the UGC "has implemented a new policy banning the teaching of healthcare-related subjects, such as biotechnology and microbiology, through online and distance learning modes."



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