Sapvax is a breakthrough immunotherapy company created by the University of Auckland to develop and commercialise a novel immunotherapy treatment concept of self-adjuvanting peptide vaccines for cancer and related viral precursors.

Sapvax’s patented SV-283 targets cancers with tumours expressing the validated cancer antigen NY-ESO-1, such as melanoma, ovarian, non-small cell lung cancer. It will enter a first-in-man clinical studies within one year of investment. A positive outcome will enable Sapvax to raise further capital or partner.

A second product, SV-638, is in the lead optimisation stage targeting Epstein Barr Virus-positive tumours, such as nasopharyngeal cancer and lymphoma.

The Series A funding of US$10million will fund the clinical study of SV-283 and development of a second product.

The research team
Distinguished Professor Margaret Brimble CNZM, FRSNZ. Director of the Medicinal Chemistry Programme at the University of Auckland and a Principal Investigator in the Maurice Wilkins Centre. Her research group has candidates in phase 2 clinical trials for traumatic brain injury, Fragile X Syndrome and Rett Syndrome.

http://brimble.chem.auckland.ac.nz/

Professor Rod Dunbar. Director of the Maurice Wilkins Centre. He focuses on human cellular immunology, especially the development of new approaches to the immune therapy of cancer.

http://www mauricewilkinscentre.org/

Return On Science is based on UniServices’ 25 years of tried and tested commercialisation successes, delivering substantive outcomes on the government’s commercialisation strategies for biotechnology and life sciences.

The translation of scientific and engineering discoveries into commercial applications is a key aspect of the New Zealand innovation strategy. Return On Science partners with organisations to turn raw research into commercial outcomes, and increases opportunities for commercialisation by bringing the necessary strategic impetus early in the research lifecycle.

We created a specialist Biotech & Life Sciences Investment Committee to provide strategic expertise, advice, and input into research commercialisation projects from drug development, clinical therapy, and medical device technologies, and the wider biotechnology space.

Our pipeline includes cancer immunotherapy projects, first-in-class perforin inhibitors for allogeneic bone marrow stem cell transplant rejection, ketamine analogues for anaesthesia, tinnitus treatment, microfluidics for reproductive technology and life sciences tools.

Returns to New Zealand
- 260+ IP commercialisation projects
- 228 Deals done
- 235 Jobs created
- $9M of government investment, $27M matched, with $115M of realised returns and $1.4B potential revenue.

The Biotech & Life Sciences Committee
Their expertise includes R&D, the full drug development portfolio from discovery to clinical trials, strategic alliances, obtaining angel and venture capital financial support, managing IP, pre-seed funding, technology incubator development, start-ups and corporate business development, management and governance. Sector experience includes biopharmaceutical research and development, pharmacology and experimental therapeutics, neurosciences, drug development, virology and molecular cell biology, and marketing and financing.

Meet the committee at www.returnonscience.co.nz
Discuss

About Return On Science
We commercialise discoveries in biotech and life sciences through:

• professional commercialisation services to researchers, tech start-ups, industry and investors with a strong focus on removing barriers and matching researchers with the right organisations to get them to market

• services ranging from proof of concept/pre-seed investment and IP protection through to market validation and fostering international relationships, along with commercialisation managers, executive education and business incubators

• independent research and business experts and a global network of partners

• critical knowledge resourcing, support and involvement for researchers

• funding options, particularly at pre-seed level

• a simple four-stage approach with a straightforward fee-for-service structure.

For researchers:
Our goal is to excite researchers and scientists about the commercial opportunities their work offers within a robust professional service offering.

For start-ups:
We can help you leverage your huge potential for new research output to contribute directly to your company’s bottom line.

For private enterprise:
We can leverage your huge potential for new research output.

Foster and grow your ideas into potential world leading products and services by getting in touch at:

www.returnonscience.co.nz/contact