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Seer awarded \$1m grant for personalised epilepsy seizure forecasting app

Melbourne-headquartered medical technology company Seer has been awarded a \$1m grant for the development of an app that produces a personalised epilepsy seizure forecast.

Funded by the Australian Government through the BioMedTech Horizons program, and operated by MTPConnect, Seer's digital innovation combines a mobile app with integrated wearable devices. Seer's co-founder and CEO, Dr Dean Freestone, said that Seer was departing from the long-standing approach to research into seizure forecasting that focused on brain activity alone.

"Seer has found that data from wearables builds a picture of other relevant factors in arriving at a personalised seizure forecast. Many factors are known to influence an individual's seizure risk, such as sleep quality, stress, alcohol intake, medication adherence, hormone levels, blood-glucose, exercise, and even the weather."

Freestone said there is evidence that seizure likelihood follows regular and predictable cycles that can be daily, weekly, monthly or other multi-day periods and that the ability to track seizure risk in real time using wearables has the potential to radically transform epilepsy management.

"Individuals will be empowered to make informed decisions about their health using advanced digital technologies that deliver personalised insights."

The company has major international opportunities with discussions underway with US and UK health services looking at ways to free up hospital beds.

Assessing current health and economic challenges, Dr Freestone concluded that digital health companies like Seer will be a major part of Australia's growth on the other side of COVID-19.

"We will help make Australians healthier and happier while generating export dollars and producing untold productivity savings. Seer and many companies like it, are well-positioned to play our role on the health and economic fronts of this recovery."

All quotes attributable to Dr Dean Freestone, CEO and co-founder of Seer.

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