

PharmAust Develops Method for MPL/Analogue Manufacture with Syngene

- PharmAust has established a scalable GMP process for synthesis of monepantel (MPL)
- The MPL produced from Syngene is fully active *in vitro* as shown by pre-clinical evaluations conducted at ONJCRI
- New monepantel has been demonstrated to maintain specificity for cancer cells *in vitro*, with little or no toxicity to non-cancerous cells
- This monepantel is suitable for further preclinical molecular pathway targeting studies understanding how monepantel kills cancer
- PharmAust is synthesising MPL analogues for further research on tumour targeting

3 December 2018 – Perth, Australia: PharmAust Limited (ASX: PAA), a clinical stage oncology company that is engaged in collaboration with the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI), is pleased to announce demonstration of anti-cancer activity for monepantel manufactured according to its recently developed aminoacetonitrile GMP production method with Syngene, as announced on October 29, 2018.

Researchers at the ONJCRI tested monepantel manufactured to this method upon human cancer cell lines and non-cancer cell lines. Cancer cell lines showed the expected sensitivity to treatment with the PharmAust monepantel, while non-cancer cells were relatively unaffected. Cancer cell lines tested included models of cancers PharmAust is studying for targeting in Phase II trials in humans. Pharmaust now plans to use this monepantel in further preclinical work understanding exactly how monepantel kills cancer cells.

PharmAust CSO, Dr Richard Mollard, commented, “Recapitulating the anti-cancer effect of monepantel manufactured according to the PharmAust method *in vitro* is an important outcome. The selective targeting of the new drug to tumour cells and lack of toxicity to normal cells supports PharmAust’s product development strategy. The PharmAust method does not appear to change the properties of monepantel and therefore is not predicted to change the anticancer properties of PharmAust’s monepantel analogues too. Future work will formally test this assertion and PharmAust is now in a strong position to advance its preclinical and drug development pipeline as needed.”

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About PharmAust (PAA):

PAA is a clinical-stage company developing therapeutics for both humans and animals. The company specialises in repurposing marketed drugs lowering the risks and costs of development. These efforts are supported by PAA's subsidiary, Epichem, a highly successful contract medicinal chemistry company which generated ~Aus\$3.02m in revenues in the 2018 FY.

About the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute:

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute is an independent medical research institute located in Heidelberg, Australia. ONJCRI's mission is to discover and develop breakthrough therapies for cancers of the breast, bowel, lung, melanoma, prostate, liver, gastrointestinal tract and brain. Researchers and clinicians of the ONJCRI are involved in more than 200 clinical trials, giving patients access to potential new treatments including immunotherapies and personalised medicine.

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About Syngene International:

Syngene International Ltd. (BSE: 539268, NSE: SYNGENE, ISIN: INE398R01022), an innovation focused global discovery, development and manufacturing organisation provides integrated services to the pharmaceutical, biotechnology, nutrition, animal health, consumer goods and specialty chemical industries across the world. Syngene's clientele include market leaders such as Bristol-Myers Squibb, Baxter, Amgen, GSK, Zoetis, Merck KGaA and Herbalife. Its innovative culture is driven by a strong team of over 3500 scientists working with clients around the world to improve R&D productivity, while reducing development time and cost. For more details, visit www.syngeneintl.com.