



## Update on PharmAust's Collaboration with the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Perth, Australia:** PharmAust Limited (ASX:PAA), a clinical-stage oncology company, is pleased to announce independent confirmation of the investigational drug monepantel's (MPL's) *in vitro* anti-cancer activity by researchers at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI).

Specifically, researchers at the ONJCRI confirmed sensitivity of human brain, breast, ovarian and prostate cancer cell lines to MPL treatment. The researchers further demonstrated sensitivity of previously untested human melanoma cancer cell lines, thus widening the possible reach of MPL's anti-cancer targets. Two non-cancerous ovarian cell lines were relatively insensitive to MPL, consistent with MPL's specificity for cancer cells. These data corroborate internal R&D at PharmAust that had previously identified 28 independent cancer cell lines that were sensitive in culture to treatment with MPL, whereas three non-cancer cell lines were relatively insensitive.

The investigations also demonstrated that the longer cancer cell lines are exposed to MPL, the greater the anti-cancer activity. For most of the cancer cell lines tested, significant and progressive increases in the effects of MPL were observed over a one to five-day time frame. Research into the molecular cascade activated by MPL to exert anti-cancer activity is now being extended. The work conducted by the ONJCRI is supported in part by a \$50,000 Innovation Connections grant from the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

PharmAust's Chief Scientific Officer Dr Richard Mollard commented, "Independent confirmation of MPL's anticancer activity in specific cancer cell lines is a great milestone for PharmAust. This work enables PharmAust to progress through its R&D program with greater certainty and expand its intellectual property portfolio on the mechanisms underpinning MPL's mode of action."

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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 a leader in the development of experimental and breakthrough cancer treatments. We investigate and develop treatments for cancers of the breast, bowel, lung, melanoma, prostate, liver, gastrointestinal tract and brain. Our researchers and clinicians are involved in more than 200 clinical trials, giving patients access to potential new treatments including immunotherapies and personalised medicine.

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