

## BRISBANE ANIMAL HOSPITAL JOINS PHARMAUST PHASE II DOG CANCER TRIAL

- PharmAust and U-Vet Werribee recruit Dr Kathleen O'Connell and team at the Animal Referral Hospital (ARH) Brisbane to participate in the Phase II B Cell Lymphoma Trial
- Ethics approval granted
- Trial underway also in Perth, Melbourne and two centres in Sydney

**3 March 2020 – Perth, Australia:** PharmAust Ltd (ASX:PAA), a clinical-stage oncology company, has engaged an additional site to recruit pet dogs with naïve B cell lymphoma for its Phase II anti-cancer trial.

PharmAust with trial manager Dr Claire Cannon at the University of Melbourne's Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences and U-Vet Werribee Animal Hospital, has contracted Dr Kathleen O'Connell at the Animal Referral Hospital in Brisbane to participate in the clinical trial. Dr O'Connell is an experienced specialist veterinary oncologist with a keen interest in animal cancers such as lymphoma.

PharmAust has been awarded a licence to undertake part of the trial in Queensland by the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development.

With this Brisbane site PharmAust and U-Vet have established an extensive national network of five sites in Melbourne, Sydney (two), Perth and Brisbane.

Recruitment is continuing with different breeds of dogs with naïve B cell lymphoma. A number of canine patients with cancer have begun treatment and some have completed the full course of treatment. Plasma and whole blood samples are being analysed in the laboratory after days 14 and 28. The release of trial data will depend upon the incremental drug success rate across the participating sites and when sufficient dogs complete treatment. Trial data release will occur when a clear and meaningful trend is apparent.

PharmAust's Chief Scientific Officer Dr Richard Mollard stated: "PharmAust is delighted to include Dr O'Connell and her team at ARH Brisbane in the trial. Having the ARH Brisbane team join the trial brings additional expertise and aims to realise outcomes sooner. PharmAust is also pleased to have the opportunity to treat pet owners' dogs with B cell lymphoma in and around the Brisbane area."

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#### **About PharmAust (PAA):**

PAA is a clinical-stage company developing targeted cancer therapeutics for humans and animals. The company specialises in repurposing marketed drugs lowering the risks and costs of development. PAA's subsidiary, Epichem, is a successful contract medicinal chemistry company that is forecasting \$3.34m revenues in FY2019/20.

PAA's lead drug candidate is monepantel (MPL), a novel, potent and safe inhibitor of the mTOR pathway – a key driver of cancer. MPL has been evaluated in Phase 1 clinical trials in humans and dogs; was well tolerated and produced a significant reduction in key prognostic biomarkers. PAA is uniquely positioned to commercialise MPL for treatment of human and veterinary cancers as it advances the drug in Phase 2 clinical trials.

#### **About U-Vet:**

The University of Melbourne's U-Vet Werribee Animal Hospital is one of Australia's leading veterinary hospital facilities, based in Werribee. U-Vet offers complete animal care to the public including general practice (primary and preventative care, exotic pet care), a suite of specialist referral services, specialist support services, 24-hour emergency care and specialist referral equine services. The hospital also trains the next generation of veterinarians and veterinary specialists with the assistance of its academic staff, who are world leaders in clinical excellence and research.

#### **About University of Melbourne:**

Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is a public-spirited institution that makes distinctive contributions to society in research, learning and teaching and engagement. It's consistently ranked among the leading universities in the world, with international rankings of world universities placing it as number 1 in Australia and number 32 in the world (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2017-2018). The University's distinctive Melbourne experience helps graduates become well-rounded, thoughtful and skilled professionals – making a positive impact across the globe. Its research helps solve social, economic and environmental challenges the world is facing today and into the future.

#### **About the Animal Referral Hospital Brisbane**

ARH Brisbane provides a 24 hour emergency service and specialist referral services in surgery, internal medicine and oncology. These services are supported by state of the art diagnostic imaging capabilities as well as dedicated and professional nursing and intensive care staff and reception. ARH Brisbane is part of the larger ARH group which was started in Sydney in 1999. With specialists around Australia, the group shares access to leaders in surgery, oncology, neurology, internal medicine, emergency and critical care, ophthalmology, diagnostic imaging and behaviour.