

Invion Collaborates to Develop Powerful Skin Cancer Gel

Highlights

- **Invion moves to develop more effective skin cancer gel**
- **The gel is a topical formulation of IVX-P02, an improved version of Photosoft™ technology, which is being developed as a treatment for cancers**
- **Human clinical trials targeted to commence in 2019**
- **Experts Formulytica and vivoPharm engaged for development and testing of skin cancer gel**

Melbourne, Australia, 7 November 2018: Cancer therapy developer Invion Limited (ASX:IVX) has partnered with two expert companies to formulate and test a gel version of its improved photosensitiser product, IVX-P02, as a photodynamic therapy (PDT) gel targeted to treat skin cancers.

Invion expects its IVX-P02 gel will be more powerful than currently available topical therapies used to treat skin cancer, and could offer skin cancer patients a new treatment option. The Company aims to have the IVX-P02 gel ready in early 2019 for testing in human clinical studies.

Invion has engaged Melbourne-based Formulytica Pty Ltd, a specialist group in the development of topical and injectable formulations for pharmaceutical products, to initially develop a topical formulation of IVX-P02 gel.

Development of an injectable IVX-P02 photosensitiser is also planned for testing in solid cancers such as ovarian, prostate and lung cancer.

Invion will undertake pre-clinical studies of the IVX-P02 gel through its partner vivoPharm, a Melbourne-based research and laboratory services firm that provides preclinical oncology and immuno-oncology services.

The results from the pre-clinical trials will form a significant part of the data package that Invion will submit to regulators to achieve product approval.

In clinical studies, the IVX-P02 gel will be applied to a patient's skin. Medical light source equipment will then deliver light to the target area and activate the patented photosensitising agent.

On the basis of pre-clinical studies conducted to date, it is expected that the reaction of visible light and oxygen with the IVX-P02 gel will kill the cancer cells on the patient, leaving surrounding normal cells unharmed.

Invion, which will supply the specialised medical light source equipment, has commenced plans to have the equipment approved by the TGA.

"These collaborations enable the Photosoft™ technology to become a clinical reality and provide new treatments for patients. We have assembled a team of highly regarded experts to advance the formulation development, and move quickly into pre-clinical and subsequently human clinical trials in 2019," said Invion Chief Executive Dr Greg Collier.

"There are other topical products on the market but IVX-P02 provides a new option. Invion's IVX-P02 gel has the potential to provide even greater efficacy than current treatments, based on the results recently seen in in-vitro testing of IVX-P02 in ovarian cancer."

The collaborations with Formulytica and vivoPharm follow the recent release of data by Invion and its research partner, Australia's Hudson Institute of Medical Research, showing that IVX-P02 has a 15-fold greater *in vitro* cytotoxicity (toxic to cells) against ovarian cancer cells, compared to Photosoft™ Oral.

Cancer expert Dr Andrew Stephens, the group head of the Ovarian Cancer Biomarkers Research Group at the Hudson Institute, says the Photosoft™ technology has many potential applications, particularly in cancer types that are already resistant to current chemotherapies.

Photodynamic therapy is a clinically approved, minimally invasive therapeutic treatment that uses a combination of non-toxic photosensitisers, visible light and oxygen to produce a reaction that kills malignant cells, shuts down tumours and stimulates the immune system.

This contrasts to other cancer treatments – for example radiotherapy and chemotherapy – which are mostly immunosuppressive.

About Invion

Invion is a clinical-stage life-sciences company that is leading the global clinical development of the Photosoft™ technology for the treatment of cancers. Invion has been appointed exclusive distributor and licensee in Australia and New Zealand of Photosoft™. The appointment has been made by technology licensor, The Cho Group, a Hong Kong based group that has funded and successfully commercialised a number of unique and advanced technologies. Via an R&D services agreement between the two entities, the research and clinical trials of Photosoft™ are funded by The Cho Group. Invion has an alliance with leading Australian medical research institute, Hudson Institute of Medical Research, for the Photosoft™ research program.

About Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)

Invion is developing Photosoft™ technology as an improved next-generation Photodynamic Therapy. PDT is a clinically approved, minimally invasive therapeutic treatment that uses non-toxic photosensitisers and visible light in combination with oxygen to produce cytotoxic-reactive oxygen that kills malignant cells, shuts down tumours and stimulates the immune system. In contrast to surgery, or radiotherapy and chemotherapy which are mostly immunosuppressive, PDT causes acute inflammation, expression of heat-shock proteins, and invasion and infiltration of a tumour by leukocytes.

About Formulytica

Formulytica is a specialty research organisation with expertise in contract formulation development services, analytical method development and validation. Our expertise focuses on topical application including creams, gels and foams for dermatology, pharmaceutical, cosmetic, veterinary and personal care products, such as skincare and haircare. www.formulytica.com

About vivoPharm

vivoPharm, a CGI Company, provides proprietary preclinical oncology and immunology services, offering integrated service in different disease areas to the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries. www.vivopharm.com.au

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