

RHY's 4 Antibodies Pass All 3 Key Screening Tests

Highlights

- **Reagent development program now moves to the next stage**
- **All three preliminary screening tests for a key reagent now complete**
- **Four independent mixed antibody preparations passed all screening tests**
- **First step towards enabling Rhythm to better manage the quality, cost and supply of key reagents needed for its ColoSTAT™ diagnostic for colorectal cancer**

Rhythm Biosciences ("Rhythm", ASX:RHY), developer of the ColoSTAT™ antibody-based blood test targeting the accurate and early detection of colorectal cancer, is delighted to advise that the first phase in the development of two new antibody reagents has been successfully completed. Four independent mixed monoclonal antibody preparations have now been identified that pass all three preliminary screening tests.

This work was recently completed under Rhythm's research contract with CSIRO on time and on budget.

Successful completion of preliminary screening has triggered the next phase of key reagent development – the cloning of cells that produce the the desired antibody specificities, separating them from other cells producing producing other products. The success of the cloning step is critical to ensuring that the company has a reliable, long-term source of these key reagents.

The cloning step will establish monoclonal antibody-producing cell lines. These cell lines will then undergo detailed characterisation, expansion and biobanking. The monoclonal antibodies produced by the cell lines will also be characterised in detail to identify those with properties most suitable for use in ColoSTAT™. We expect the cloning steps to be completed by late June 2018. Once this stage is complete, antibody production commences.

ColoSTAT™ uses antibodies to measure the levels of several proteins in the blood. The concentrations of these proteins in blood have been shown to vary in the presence or absence of colorectal cancer. When these concentration values are combined using a proprietary algorithm the resultant cancer risk index is compared to a pre-determined threshold value. An index value above the threshold suggests the patient should progress to colonoscopy for a definitive diagnosis and further intervention as indicated. If below, the subject is advised to screen again in two years' time.

"Rhythm's key focus for the coming months is to secure our own antibodies and target proteins to give us control of the supply, quality and cost of these key reagents," said Rhythm's MD, Dr Trevor Lockett

“Confirmation that we have antibodies that pass all three pre-screening tests in four of our mixed antibody populations is excellent news for our product development program. We expect to know if this next, all important cloning process has been successful by late June 2018” Dr Lockett said.

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About Rhythm Biosciences

Rhythm Biosciences is developing and commercialising Australian medical diagnostics technology for sale across national and international markets.

Rhythm’s lead product, ColoSTAT[™], is intended to provide the accurate and early detection of colorectal cancer, acting as either a ‘first-step’ screening test or within the triage of persons with a positive faecal immunochemical test (FIT) or colonoscopy. As well as being of value to those with risk factors associated with colorectal cancer, ColoSTAT[™] provides an alternative for those who choose not to or are unable to be assessed using standard screening programs.

Being developed to be an affordable and effective diagnostic, ColoSTAT[™] has the potential to play an important role in reducing morbidity, mortality and healthcare costs associated with colorectal cancer.