

## Imugene appoints Professor Yuman Fong, MD, of City of Hope to Chair Oncolytic Virotherapy Scientific Advisory Board

Sydney, Australia, 17 October 2019: Imugene Limited (ASX:IMU) a clinical stage immuno-oncology company today announced the appointment of Professor Yuman Fong, MD, Chair of the Department of Surgery at City of Hope, a world-renowned independent research and treatment center for cancer, diabetes and other life-threatening diseases based near Los Angeles, to head up its newly formed oncolytic virotherapy (OV) Scientific Advisory Board (SAB).

Dr. Fong is a world-renowned cancer researcher, physician and surgeon whose clinical work has focused on OV for over 30 years. He is the inventor of Imagene's proposed license for OV CF33.

OVs are designed to both selectively kill tumour cells and activate the immune system against cancer cells, with the potential to improve clinical response and survival.

OVs have the potential to transform oncology by directly causing tumour cell death, and also by delivering a potent payload in a targeted fashion that activates the immune system.

Imugene's M.D. & CEO, Ms Leslie Chong said, "It is a great honor for Imugene to have such a distinguished physician and scientist join our team. Dr. Fong has devoted his career and his scientific discoveries for the benefit of cancer sufferers and has led the OV field for over 30 years. He is a prodigious researcher with over 700 published works to his name, and I am sure his contribution to Imugene will be profound."

OVs are attracting the serious attention of big pharma companies such as Merck, Boehringer Ingelheim and Janssen which have made three acquisitions in 2018 alone totalling over \$1.0 billion, including former ASX-listed company Viralytics.

The formation of the Oncolytic Scientific Advisory Board is subject to IMU's proposed licensing transaction of CF33 from City Of Hope which is subject to a number of customary conditions precedent, and shareholder approval at the Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to be held on 18th of November, 2019.

For further information please contact:

Leslie Chong Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer T: +61 458 040 433

E: Leslie.Chong@Imugene.com

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## **About Professor Yuman Fong**

A pioneer both in the operating room and in the laboratory, Yuman Fong, M.D., The Sangiacomo Family Chair in Surgical Oncology and chair of The City of Hope Dept of Surgery is an internationally recognized expert in liver and pancreatic cancer. He has developed many new surgical techniques and instruments. He has also led research efforts to use genetically modified viruses to destroy cancer cells. Prof. Fong joined City of Hope in 2014 after more than two decades at the renowned Memorial SloanKettering Cancer Center in New York City. Prof. Fong is both an author and innovator. He has written and edited over 700 scholarly articles as well as 14 textbooks. He is currently the Editor-in-Chief of Molecular Therapy Oncolytics (Cell Press). Prof. Fong has had leadership roles in regulatory aspects of gene therapy, including serving as Chair of the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee of the National Institutes of Health of the United States.

## About the CF33 Oncolytic Chimeric Poxvirus

Oncolytic virotherapy (OV) utilizes naturally occurring or genetically modified viruses to infect, replicate in, and kill cancer cells, while sparing healthy cells. The first OV for human therapy was recently approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA): T-VEC (talimogene laherparepvec, Amgen), for the treatment of metastatic melanoma. Intriguingly, many cancer cell characteristics that lead to chemo- and radiation-resistance enhance the success of oncolytic virotherapy

C33 is a chimeric poxvirus derived through recombination among multiple strains of vaccinia virus and other species of poxvirus, thus it is better than a virus based on a single strain. One hundred chimeric orthopoxviruses and 100 chimeric parapoxviruses were generated.

Preclinical data has demonstrated that CF33 is more efficacious than all parental viruses and some viruses in clinical trials.

CF33 efficiently shrank injected tumours and distant non-injected tumours in human triple negative breast cancer, colon cancer, ovarian cancer xenograft models in mice without adverse effects at a dose that is 2-5 orders of magnitude lower than doses used for oncolytic viruses under clinical testing.

Especially impressive is that CF33 can shrink multiple types of cancer at an extremely low dose (1000 PFU). Importantly, CF33 shrinks not only injected tumours, but also non-injected distant tumours (abscopal effect).

CF33 showed superior replication and cancer cell killing in NCI-60 cell lines and is more potent than all the parental and competitor viruses in most of the NCI-60 cell lines except for a few cell lines in which none of the viruses showed any effect at the low MOI (0.01).

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## About Imugene (ASX:IMU)

Imugene is a clinical stage immuno-oncology company developing a range of new and novel immunotherapies that seek to activate the immune system of cancer patients to treat and eradicate tumors. Our unique platform technologies seek to harness the body's immune system against tumours, potentially achieving a similar or greater effect than synthetically manufactured monoclonal antibody and other immunotherapies. Our product pipeline includes multiple immunotherapy B-cell vaccine candidates and an oncolytic virotherapy (CF33), subject to shareholders approval at the EGM, aimed at treating a variety of cancers in combination with standard of care drugs and emerging immunotherapies. We are supported by a leading team of international cancer experts with extensive experience in developing new cancer therapies with many approved for sale and marketing for global markets.

Our vision is to help transform and improve the treatment of cancer and the lives of the millions of patients who need effective treatments. This vision is backed by a growing body of clinical evidence and peer-reviewed research. Imugene is well funded and resourced, to deliver on its commercial and clinical milestones. Together with leading specialists and medical professionals, we believe Imugene's immuno-oncology therapies will become foundation treatments for cancer. Our goal is to ensure that Imugene and its shareholders are at the forefront of this rapidly growing global market.