

# **Former Juno Executive Joins Prescient Board**

- Extensive experience in drug development in technologies and therapeutic areas of strong relevance for Prescient
- Key executive at CAR-T pioneer, Juno Therapeutics
- Brings global pharmaceutical and small biotech R&D experience

**MELBOURNE Australia 1 June 2020:** The Board of Prescient Therapeutics Limited (ASX: PTX) today announced the appointment of leading biotechnology executive Dr Allen Ebens, a 24 year veteran drug developer including experience with one of the most successful CAR-T companies, as a Non-Executive Director, effective 1 June 2020.

Dr Ebens is Chief Science Officer at Vera Therapeutics, a San Francisco California based biotechnology company. Dr Ebens is a highly accomplished drug developer, having overseen the advancement of multiple successful drug development projects from concept to clinical development including polatuzumab, which is approved by the US FDA and is now marketed for use in diffuse large B-cell lymphoma.

Dr Ebens was an early recruit to Juno Therapeutics (Juno), which is recognised as a one of the first CAR-T companies, and a leader in the successful and rapid clinical advancement of CAR-T cancer therapies. At Juno Dr Ebens was instrumental in establishing the scientific capabilities of the company in the emerging field of CAR-T. Juno was acquired by Celgene for US\$9 billion in 2018, which was subsequently acquired by Bristol-Myers Squibb (NYSE: BMY) in 2019 for US\$74 billion.

Previously, Dr Ebens held senior executive positions at global pharma and biotechnology leaders Genentech and Exelixis, where he worked from concept to clinic across multiple therapeutic platforms including targeted therapies, antibodies, antibody-drug conjugates, and T cell recruiting antibodies. He has also held roles in biotech companies including Bioseek and NGM Biopharmaceuticals.

Dr Ebens said, "I am delighted to be joining Prescient at such an exciting time for the Company. I am impressed by Prescient's programs in both targeted and cellular therapies. Notably, from my time in the CAR-T field, I appreciate that the holy grail for CAR-T is to create a therapy that is controllable post-infusion, and flexible against a variety of cancer targets. Prescient's recent announcement of the universal CAR platform, OmniCAR, represents that technology."



Prescient Therapeutics Chairman Steve Engle said, "Prescient continues to build a world-class team with the addition of Dr. Ebens. With the launch of the recently announced OmniCAR program, the timing could not be better. We welcome Allen to the Board and look forward to working together to advance our highly promising cancer therapy pipeline."

Dr Ebens is the author of multiple peer-reviewed publications and a significant patent portfolio. He completed his PhD at University of California, Los Angeles and postdoctoral training at University of California, San Francisco.

Prescient will issue 415,000 unlisted options exercisable at A\$0.075, expiring 4 years from the date of issue to Dr Ebens.

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# **About Prescient Therapeutics Limited (Prescient)**

Prescient Therapeutics is a clinical stage oncology company developing personalised medicine approaches to cancer, including targeted and cellular therapies.

#### **Cell Therapies**

**OmniCAR:** is a universal immune receptor platform enabling controllable T-cell activity and multi-antigen targeting with a single cell product. OmniCAR's modular CAR system decouples antigen recognition from the T-cell signalling domain. It is the first universal immune receptor allowing post-translational covalent loading of binders to T-cells. OmniCAR is based on technology licensed from Penn; the SpyTag/SpyCatcher binding system licensed from Oxford University; and other assets.

The targeting ligand can be administered separately to CAR-T cells, creating on-demand T-cell activity post infusion and enables the CAR-T to be directed to an array of different tumour antigens.

OmniCAR provides a method for single-vector, single cell product targeting of multiple antigens simultaneous or sequentially, whilst allowing continual re-arming to generate, regulate and diversify a sustained T-cell response over time.

**Cell Therapy:** Prescient has several other initiatives underway to develop new cell therapy approaches.

#### **Targeted Therapies**

**PTX-100** is a first in class compound with the ability to block an important cancer growth enzyme known as geranylgeranyl transferase-1 (GGT-1). It disrupts oncogenic Ras pathways by inhibiting the activation of Rho, Rac and Ral circuits in cancer cells, leading to apoptosis (death) of cancer cells. PTX-100 is believed to be the only RhoA inhibitor in the world in clinical development. PTX-100 is currently in a PK/PD basket study of hematological and solid malignancies, focusing on cancers with Ras and RhoA mutations. In a previous Phase 1 trial in advanced solid tumours, PTX-100 was well tolerated and achieved stable disease.

**PTX-200** is a novel PH domain inhibitor that inhibits an important tumour survival pathway known as Akt, which plays a key role in the development of many cancers, including breast and ovarian cancer, as well as leukemia. Unlike other drug candidates that target Akt inhibition which are non-specific kinase inhibitors that have toxicity problems, PTX-200 has a novel mechanism of action that specifically inhibits Akt whilst being comparatively safer. This highly promising compound has encouraging Phase 2a data in HER2-negative breast cancer; Phase 1b/2 in relapsed and refractory AML and Phase 1b in recurrent or persistent platinum resistant ovarian cancer:



Find out more at ptxtherapeutics.com, or connect with us via Twitter @PTX\_AUS and LinkedIn.

The Board of Prescient Therapeutics Limited have approved the release of this announcement.

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# **Supplemental COVID-19 Risk Factors**

Please see our website : <u>Supplemental COVID-19 Risk Factors</u>