

21<sup>st</sup> July 2014

The Company Announcements Platform

ASX Limited

**By E-lodgement**

## **Virax: Globally regarded Cancer Authority to help Steer US Breast Cancer Program**

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### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ***Highly regarded US cancer authority Dr Joseph Sparano appointed to Scientific Advisory Board***
- ***Dr Sparano to steer important US Phase 2 trial of novel oncology compound GGTI-2418 in breast cancer***

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**21<sup>st</sup> July 2014, Melbourne, Australia:** An internationally regarded oncology expert has been appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of Australian clinical oncology company Virax Holdings Limited (ASX:VHL).

Dr Joseph Sparano MD, is currently Professor of Medicine and Women's Health at the prestigious Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York and the Associate Chairman for Clinical Research in the Department of Oncology at the Montefiore Medical Center.

He will be responsible for leading key Phase 1b/2 clinical trials of Virax's novel compound GGTI-2418 in breast cancer, which are expected to begin in Q1 2015.

Virax Managing Director Dr Rob Crombie said this high calibre appointment was a coup for the company and further validated the opportunity presented by the recent GGTI-2418 acquisition.

He commented: "We are aggressively pursuing development of this extremely promising asset and Dr Sparano's appointment is pivotal to this process."

"He has a both an exemplary scientific and medical background in the oncology arena and is internationally regarded for his research on developing novel therapeutic approaches for breast cancer, lymphoma and HIV-associated cancers."

"We look forward to working with him and fully exploiting his expertise to drive our oncology programs forward."

Dr Sparano is also Associate Director for Clinical Research at the Albert Einstein Cancer Center. He is Vice Chair of the Eastern Co-operative Oncology Group, the AIDS Malignancy Consortium and the NCI Breast Cancer Correlative Science Committee.

"I look forward to contributing to the development of this important compound in breast cancer," Dr Sparano said.

"Breast cancer remains an area where there is substantial unmet medical need and there is a strong demand for new therapeutics."

"Early stage Phase 1 clinical trials have demonstrated the potential of GGTI-2418 as a monotherapy or an adjunct treatment with current standards of care to improve patient outcomes. We will fully investigate this compound's therapeutic ability at the earliest opportunity."

GGTI-2418 is a novel compound emanating from research at Yale University and the prestigious Lee Moffitt Cancer Center.

It is a synthetic peptidomimetic inhibitor of geranylgeranyltransferase I (GGTase I) that downregulates several pivotal oncogenic and tumor survival pathways and induces apoptosis (death) of the cancer cells.

Virax is also pursuing development of GGTI-2418 as a new treatment for multiple myeloma (bone marrow cancer).

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For further information contact:

Mr. Rudi Michelson

**Monsoon Communications**

Ph: +61 (0) 3 9620 3333

Dr. Rob Crombie

**Managing Director**

Ph: +61 (0) 439 361 331

## **About Virax**

Virax is a clinical-stage oncology company currently engaged in the development of novel products for the treatment of cancers of unmet medical need. It holds an exclusive worldwide license to the novel cancer compound GGTI-2418 for the treatment of multiple myeloma, breast and pancreatic cancer. In addition, the company has granted a licence to major French biotechnology company Transgene for access to its Co-X-Gene™ technology for use in two of Transgene's immunotherapeutic products. These are: TG4001 – a treatment for pathologies relating to human papilloma virus (HPV) infection that can lead to oropharyngeal(head and neck) cancer, and TG4010 – a treatment for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). The board is actively seeking to expand its asset base with complementary technologies and products to maximise shareholder value.