



Company announcement

20th International AIDS Conference highlights ATC as promising new AIDS drug

Melbourne, Australia, 29 October 2014

Australian biotechnology company Avexa Limited [ASX:AVX] today announced that the company's drug candidate Apricitabine (ATC) – for the treatment of drug-resistant HIV – has been identified in the October issue of American AIDS magazine A&U as one of the world's most promising new therapies for the treatment of HIV.

Prominent AIDS writers Mariel Selbovitz and David Miller attended the 20th International AIDS Conference in Melbourne in July. They write, in the latest issue of A&U, of the re-emergence of Nucleoside Reverse Transcriptase Inhibitors (NRTIs) as pivotal components of effective anti-HIV therapy. ATC is the newest drug in this grouping. The article concludes that *"ATC may meet the urgent need of an increasing number of HIV patients and should be high on the priority list."*

Dr Jonathan Coates, Avexa's CSO and Interim CEO, said the company was pleased with the recognition. "A&U is a prestigious and widely-read journal and we are thrilled that the authors of the story recognise the potential of ATC. We are delighted – but not surprised – that ATC was recognised as one of the most promising drugs under development at the Melbourne AIDS conference."

Avexa is currently preparing the final clinical trial for ATC before seeking approval from the regulatory authorities. In addition, patients will soon be able to access the drug through the Early Access Scheme.

Further, a panel of prominent HIV experts was assembled at the AIDS conference to discuss the importance of ATC as a new treatment for HIV. Two of the experts – Rob Murphy, Director of Global Health and Professor of Medical and Biomedical Engineering at Northwestern University in Chicago, and Mark Wainberg, Professor of Microbiology and Director of the AIDS Centre at McGill University in Montreal – said the following:

Rob Murphy: "I'm not sure it's (ATC) is going to be used as a first-line drug but it certainly can be used as a second-line drug when twice-a-day dosing is very common and when drugs typically are given on a more individual basis. There are still plenty of people on second-line therapy. I think ATC really has a very favourable profile for this second-line therapy. There aren't really many second-line nucleoside options so this would be a very legitimate option."

Mark Wainberg: "Our lab did the initial antiviral work on ATC and we showed that it has exquisitely good antiviral activity. It works very well against viruses that contain some of the mutations that are associated with resistance. I think it would be wonderful if ATC can become widely available for patients in the US; that would a plus, to be used in second-line therapy primarily."

The panel was videotaped for educational purposes by Virochannel, for which Avexa provided some funding. ViroChannel is an independent network for healthcare professionals focused on developing and reporting information pertaining to clinically relevant advances and developments in the science and practice of virology medicine. A link to the video is on Avexa's website.

"We are delighted to see these discussions of the potentially important role that ATC may play in HIV treatment," said Dr Coates. "We are pleased that we can make ATC available to a greater number of needy patients through the Early Access Scheme, together with our partner LINK Healthcare, and we look forward to seeing the difference ATC can make to patients' lives".



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About Avexa Limited

Avexa Limited is a Melbourne-based biotechnology company with a focus on discovery, development and commercialization of small molecules for the treatment of infectious diseases. Avexa's key projects include Apricitabine (ATC) for the treatment of drug-resistant HIV, an HIV integrase program and an antibiotic program for antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections.

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