

ASX Release

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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE (UK) TO BEGIN A PHASE II TRIAL OF MONEPANTEL IN CANINE CANCER

Reformulated MPL in capsules to be available for study

PharmAust Limited ("PharmAust") (ASX: PAA) is pleased to report that following the signing of a Materials Transfer Agreement with the University of Cambridge, Department of Veterinary Sciences, Dr Jane Dobson will oversee and evaluate the role of monepantel ("MPL") as a treatment for canine cancers.

The Phase II trial will be undertaken in canines which have failed standard of care and follows on from the Phase I trial undertaken in Sydney, Australia by Dr Angela Frimberger. The Phase I trial showed excellent safety with suppression of tumour markers and the Phase II will build on these successful earlier results.

PharmAust has a Research and Option Agreement with Novartis Animal Health and, as such, the outcome of this study will be important in understanding the commercial potential of MPL in veterinary cancer therapy.

Previous Phase I trials with MPL in man and in canines were particularly challenging due to the very unpleasant taste of the MPL formulation. To overcome the poor palatability of the drug, PharmAust has arranged for the manufacture of 20,000 capsules of reformulated MPL by Juniper Pharma Services, under GMP conditions to support clinical trial development. The reformulated capsules will be used for Phase II trials in both man and canines.

PharmAust's human trial at the Royal Adelaide Hospital showed significant activity of MPL on tumour markers such as p70S6K and p-4E-BP1, however, compliance by patients in taking the drug for 28 days was poor due to nausea associated with the exceptionally poor palatability of the drug. Similar challenges were observed in canines. It is expected that owners administering the new formulation to their pet dogs will find the process much more acceptable.

PharmAust's Chairman, Dr Roger Aston said: "We expect that the reformulation of MPL into capsules will enable initiation of the canine trial in Cambridge shortly. A stability programme with the reformulated capsules will also be initiated. The Phase I studies in man and canines showed that oral MPL was effectively absorbed as evidenced by pharmacokinetic analysis in man and by suppression of markers in both man and canines. We look forward to reporting on the outcomes of this important study".

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About University of Cambridge

The University of Cambridge's mission is to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence. It admits the very best and brightest students, regardless of background, and offers one of the UK's most generous bursary schemes. The University of Cambridge's reputation for excellence is known internationally and reflects the scholastic achievements of its academics and students, as well as the world-class original research carried out by its staff. Some of the most significant scientific breakthroughs occurred at the University, including the splitting of the atom, invention of the jet engine and the discoveries of stem cells, plate tectonics, pulsars and the structure of DNA. From Isaac Newton to Stephen Hawking, the University has nurtured some of history's greatest minds and has produced more Nobel Prize winners than any other UK institution with over 80 laureates.