PRIMA BIOMED LTD
Australian Cancer Treatment Company

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Potency Assay for Cvac™ ovarian cancer vaccine successfully developed

Australian health care company Prima BioMed (Prima) (ASX: PRR) is pleased to announce that a Potency Assay for the CVac™ immunotherapy ovarian cancer therapy vaccine has been successfully developed.

The purpose of a Potency Assay is to ensure that a given batch of treatment (in this case the CVac™ vaccine) has a pre-defined minimum level of potential biological activity that will deliver an expected result. It also helps demonstrate a batch-to-batch consistency of the treatment, which depends on and reflects biological activity. CVac™ is an autologous cell therapy or a personalised medicine very much like bone marrow transplantation and a Potency Assay development is an important step for CVac™.

The Potency Assay gives Prima BioMed an opportunity to compare manufacturing across Prima's world-wide facilities and will lead to a validation tool for regulatory purposes once patient data from the upcoming Phase III study are available. Having this analytical bioassay to support the determination of CVac™ consistency for the upcoming Phase III represents a significant milestone in the development of CVac™

The assay is a key component in the process to establish CVac™ as a pharmaceutical grade product, and will become an integral part of the Chemistry Manufacturing and Controls (CMC) section of a future registration regulatory package for CVac™.

The successful qualification of the Potency Assay was based on more than 18 months of research and was developed in collaboration with Prima's clinical team and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

Prima Biomed CEO Martin Rogers said: "We are delighted with the positive Potency Assay results for CVac™. These results represent another significant achievement in the development pathway for CVac™ and represent the culmination of a body of excellent work by the Prima team and our partners at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne."

Chief Medical Officer Dr Neil Frazer, said: "We are excited to be part of the cutting edge of cancer treatment. The development of the Potency Assay is an important advancement for CVac™ treatment and we are delighted to be working on the next steps."

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About CVac™ Ovarian Cancer Treatment

CVac™ is Prima BioMed's core product. It is a vaccine therapy treatment for ovarian cancer sufferers that is administered post-surgery and post-chemotherapy to delay the relapse and control the metastases of the cancer. There is a large un-met medical need for new treatments for ovarian cancer which has a very high morbidity rate, and there are currently no maintenance-based therapy products commercially available.

The Company has commenced its Phase IIb Trial for CVac™ with the US FDA and plans to commence a Phase III Clinical Trial for CVac™ in Europe and the US this year. The Phase IIb and Phase III Trials aim to further confirm the ability of CVac™ to reduce the instance of relapse in ovarian cancer patients, control the metastases of the cancer and increase the life expectancy of patients.

Prima's ultimate goal is to commercialise CVac™ into the multi-billion dollar global pharmacy oncology market. The global market for ovarian cancer therapeutics was valued at US$2.1b in 2007 and was estimated to have grown to US$3.6b by 2010.

Regulatory approval and commercialization of CVac™ is the core focus for Prima.

About Prima BioMed

Prima BioMed is an ASX listed Australian health care company. The Company is focused on technologies in the fields of cancer immunotherapy and immunology.

Prima's lead product is CVac™ ovarian cancer therapy treatment. It has completed two successful clinical trials and is progressing toward eventual commercialization in the United States, Australia, Europe, and globally.

The Company's broader, long term goal is to develop commercial cancer treatment technologies and programs for global markets.