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Arana announces issuance of key European patent for Evibodies™

Antibody therapeutics company Arana Therapeutics Ltd (ASX:AAH) announced today that it has been awarded a patent by the European Patent Office for Evibodies™, small antibody-like proteins that can be used as drugs or diagnostic agents in applications where whole antibodies may be unsuitable.

European patent, No. 1058728 covers the company's development and use of Evibodies™, adding to the Arana technology platform by supplying a means of discovering new targeting agents. The granted patent has been validated in the following European countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain and UK and has now passed the time-limited opposition period (see background) unopposed.

"This patent represents another important milestone for Arana Therapeutics. We were actively developing Evibodies™ due to their key benefit of being synergistic with the company's other technology capabilities. The grant of this patent supports the continued development of Evibodies™, further strengthening and expanding Arana's technology platform," commented Steffen Nock, Acting CEO of Arana.

Evibodies™ are only about one tenth the size of an antibody and can therefore be manufactured more economically. Evibodies™ have attachment capabilities similar to antibodies, but may be preferred to antibodies under some settings when, for example, a smaller molecule which enables better penetration of tissues is beneficial.

Background

European patent is a term used to refer to patents granted under the European Patent Convention of 1973. After grant a European patent does not provide a unitary right, but covers a group of essentially independent patents which may be enforced or revoked on a national basis. The European grant however, may be revoked or narrowed as a group via a time-limited opposition period (which runs for 9 months from the time of grant) which can be initiated by any person other than the patent proprietor. Under the European patent convention a European patent shall, in each of the contracting states for which it is validated, have the effect of and be subject to the same conditions as a national patent granted by that state, unless otherwise provided in the EPC.

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About Arana Therapeutics:

Arana Therapeutics (ASX: AAH) is a biopharmaceutical company focused on developing next generation antibody based drugs that will improve the lives of patients with inflammatory diseases and cancer.

Arana Therapeutics' innovative engineering technologies provide the basis for developing its next generation antibody candidates. Arana Therapeutics has the financial strength and management expertise to develop its product pipeline.

Arana has a significant track record of commercialising its technologies and has collaborations with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), CSL, Kyowa Hakko Kirin (KHK), and licensing arrangements with Centocor (J&J) and Abbott Laboratories.

For further information: www.arana.com

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