

Monepantel's Principal Metabolite Shows Anti-Cancer Activity

- Researchers at the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute demonstrate monepantel's major metabolite retains anti-cancer activity similar to monepantel
- The monepantel metabolite shows relatively little effect upon non-cancer cells
- Monepantel and its major metabolite together provide a "double kick" to killing cancer cells
- This study outcome provides for reduced dosing regimens for clinical trials

14th January 2019 – Perth, Australia: PharmAust Limited (ASX: PAA), a clinical stage oncology company that is engaged in collaboration with the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI), is pleased to announce important findings confirming anti-cancer activity of monepantel's major metabolite, monepantel sulfone.

The human cancer cell lines tested were representative of cancers that PharmAust is currently studying for treatment in its upcoming Phase II trial in humans. Importantly, the ONJCRI researchers also demonstrated that, like monepantel, the metabolite has relatively little toxicity upon non-cancer human cells.

PharmAust Chief Scientific Officer, Dr Richard Mollard, commented, "This is very important work. PharmAust has found that in both humans and dogs monepantel is metabolised to monepantel sulfone and this metabolite remains in the body for some time. Importantly, this metabolite appears to have the same, targeted cytotoxic effect upon cancer cells and the same non-toxic effect upon non-cancer cells as monepantel. This means that monepantel and its metabolite are predicted to provide an enduring and specific effect through a "double kick" to cancer cells, while minimally affecting normal cells in the body."

PharmAust is now in a position to formulate monepantel for its trials by fine tuning the drug dosage form so that, if studies prove successful, instead of taking a tablet every day, for example, patients may be able to take a tablet only a few times a week to achieve the required anti-cancer effect.

Enquiries:

Dr Roger Aston
Executive Chairman and CEO
Tel: 0402 762 204
rogeraston@pharmaust.com

Dr Richard Mollard
Chief Scientific Officer
Tel: 0418 367 855
rmollard@pharmaust.com

About PharmAust (PAA):

PAA is a clinical-stage company developing therapeutics for both humans and animals. The company specialises in repurposing marketed drugs lowering the risks and costs of development. These efforts are supported by PAA's subsidiary, Epichem, a highly successful contract medicinal chemistry company which generated ~Aus\$3.02m in revenues in the 2018 FY.

About the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute:

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute is an independent medical research institute located in Heidelberg, Australia. ONJCRI's mission is to discover and develop breakthrough therapies for cancers of the breast, bowel, lung, melanoma, prostate, liver, gastrointestinal tract and brain. Researchers and clinicians of the ONJCRI are involved in more than 200 clinical trials, giving patients access to potential new treatments including immunotherapies and personalised medicine.

ONJCRI Enquiries:

Kim Tsai,
Chief Operating Officer
Tel: 0411 742 221