



ANTISENSE THERAPEUTICS

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Animal study results point to ATL1102's potential as an Inhaled Drug for Asthma

Antisense Therapeutics Limited (ASX: ANP) has been investigating the therapeutic potential of inhaled antisense compounds targeting the VLA-4 protein in asthma and is pleased to announce that encouraging results have been obtained in an animal model of the disease. The Company's lead drug ATL1102 is an antisense inhibitor that suppresses the production of the inflammatory disease target VLA-4, and as previously reported, is scheduled to enter Phase II clinical trials in multiple sclerosis patients before the end of this year.

The studies which were performed in an experimental mouse model of asthma showed that delivery of an antisense drug against VLA-4 via inhalation to the lung significantly suppressed the key asthma indicators in allergen-sensitised mice. Importantly, the drug was active at low inhaled doses. The results are to be presented at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand in March 2005.

Associate Professor John Wilson, of the Monash Medical School's Department of Allergy, Immunology and Respiratory Medicine, and Director of the National Asthma Council, is an advisor to Antisense Therapeutics in respiratory medicine, and is encouraged by the new data. "There is a great need for safe and effective asthma medicines. Antisense to VLA-4 appears to be effective in an accepted animal model, and there has been significant scientific interest in the drug's therapeutic target VLA-4 for asthma and other inflammatory indications," said Prof Wilson.

Antisense Therapeutics' Managing Director Mark Diamond said, "the Company is very pleased with the data emerging from this pre-clinical asthma programme. As we previously announced, ATL1102 has been shown to be safe in animal and Phase I human studies. Our ATL1102 clinical development programme is advancing well, and it is an ideal time for us to exploit our advances with ATL1102 in other inflammatory disease areas. Our animal asthma studies are teaching us a great deal about the anti-inflammatory mechanism of antisense to VLA-4 in the lung and the potential of ATL1102 as an asthma treatment."

The data package that has been developed to date on ATL1102 together with these animal asthma studies would potentially provide the Company, or a licensing partner, the opportunity to move quickly into testing ATL1102 as an inhaled drug in patients with asthma.

Background Information

Asthma is a chronic lung condition characterised by periodic episodes of airway inflammation and constriction resulting in wheezing, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath. The episodes typically occur in response to stimuli such as allergens, chemical irritants or low temperatures. Up to 1 in 4 children, and 1 in 10 adults will experience asthma symptoms at some time in their lives.

ATL1102 is a second-generation antisense inhibitor of CD49d, a sub-unit of VLA-4 (Very Late Antigen-4). In inflammation, white blood cells (leukocytes) are believed to move out of the bloodstream into the inflamed tissue, for example, the CNS in MS, and the lung airways in asthma. The inhibition of VLA-4 may prevent white blood cells from entering sites of inflammation, thereby halting progression of the disease. Inhibition of VLA-4 in animals has demonstrated positive effects

on a number of inflammatory diseases such as MS. Several other VLA-4 inhibitors are in clinical development for inflammatory conditions.

Antisense Therapeutics Limited (ASX: ANP) is an Australian publicly listed biopharmaceutical drug discovery and development company. ANP's mission is to create, develop and commercialise novel antisense pharmaceuticals for large unmet markets. Its two most advanced projects target Multiple Sclerosis (ATL1102), and Psoriasis (ATL1101).

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