

Biotron Limited (ASX:BIT)

Company Description

Biotron Limited (ASX:BIT) is a mid-clinical stage biotechnology company based in Sydney developing novel drugs targeting serious virus diseases with significant unmet medical need. The Company's core expertise lies in developing drugs targeting a class of viral proteins known as viroporins. Viroporins are found in a wide range of viruses and are crucial for viral pathogenicity, making them an ideal drug target. The Company has developed a focused library of viroporin inhibitors, and screening assays against key viral targets.

The Company's lead drug BIT225 is in clinical development for both HIV-1 and Hepatitis C virus (HCV), and also has several earlier stage preclinical and research programs for several other viral infections including Dengue.

BIT225 has generated early proof-of-concept data in clinical trials with demonstrated activity against both HCV and HIV-1. The compound has pan-genotype HCV activity *in vitro*, and has shown promising clinical efficacy against HCV genotypes 1 and 3.

BIT225 is also in development for treatment of HIV-1. It has the potential to be combined with existing antiretroviral drugs (ART) and/or with future eradication strategies. The drug represents a first-in-class opportunity to target the HIV-1 virus in macrophage reservoir cells where, until now, the virus has been able to 'hide' from current drug therapies. These cells continually produce low level virus, even in patients on treatment with ART. It has shown clinical efficacy against HIV-1 in reservoir cells, and has the potential to be combined with other anti-retroviral drugs to eradicate long-lived pools of virus that are not eliminated with current treatments. Clinical data has also suggests that BIT225 may have an immune-modulatory effect in patients receiving ART.

In addition to its clinical development programs for BIT225, Biotron has research stage drug development programs against other viruses including Dengue and Influenza viruses. Biotron's technology has potential to target other serious viral diseases including Ebola and Zika viruses.

Pipelines and Developments

Significant recent events include:

- Announcement of identification of compounds with activity against Zika virus.
- Announcement of positive data from Phase 2, three month-dosing trial of BIT225 in HCV G1 and G3 subjects.
- Demonstration that new capsule formulation has improved efficiency at delivery of BIT225.
- Publication of key data from HIV-1 clinical trial in international peer-reviewed scientific publications.

The Company anticipates commencing a Phase 2 HIV-1 trial in the second half of 2016.

Partnership Strategy

Biotron is seeking partnerships for further clinical development of its programs. The Company's partnering strategy remains flexible as it focuses on commercialisation of antiviral assets.

Further Information

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