

PRESS RELEASE

ASLAN PHARMACEUTICALS AND NATIONAL CANCER CENTRE SINGAPORE COLLABORATE TO RESEARCH AND DEVELOP THERAPIES FOR ASIA-PREVALENT TUMOUR TYPES

Singapore, 16 July, 2015 – ASLAN Pharmaceuticals (ASLAN), an oncology focused biotechnology company, and National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will further enhance the study of novel therapeutic agents for the treatment of gastric cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma (liver) and cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct), three common forms of gastrointestinal (GI) cancers that are particularly prevalent in Asia.

Under the terms of the MOU, ASLAN and NCCS will initiate a number of collaborative projects focused on increasing the understanding of novel combinations of known therapeutic agents, including ASLAN's clinical development programmes (ASLAN001 and ASLAN002), through pre-clinical research involving patient-derived cell lines and xenograft models. In addition, the parties will jointly conduct clinical trials studying novel treatments for Asia-prevalent cancers.

To encourage a broader clinical understanding of gastric cancers in the region, ASLAN and NCCS will host a series of disease symposiums in Asia. The symposiums, which will include a dedicated biannual cholangiocarcinoma symposium in Singapore, will bring together GI cancer scientists and clinicians to share research breakthroughs and facilitate knowledge exchange.

Overall, GI cancers are responsible for more deaths than any other types of cancer¹. Worldwide, gastric cancer has one of the highest incidence rates, with 952,000 new cases diagnosed in 2012². In Asia, gastric cancer is the third most common cancer after breast and liver, and is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in Asia³. There are currently no effective treatments approved for cholangiocarcinoma, a rare tumour comprising of only 3% of GI tumours but with geographically heterogeneous prevalence whereby the highest rates are in Asia, notably Southeast Asia⁴.

Commenting on the collaboration, Dr. Bertil Lindmark, Chief Scientific Officer of ASLAN, said: *“There is a pressing need to address the inadequate treatment options for GI cancers and we are delighted to be strengthening our relationship with NCCS to explore novel treatment combinations which have the potential to displace traditional chemotherapy options. Our highly-experienced team has a broad understanding of the epidemiological trends specific to cancer in Asia and, leveraging the world-class research capabilities of NCCS, we are well-positioned to accelerate treatment options for patients in the region and globally.”*

¹ Mohamad Amin Pourhoseingholi, Mohsen Vahedi, and Ahmad Reza Baghestani. Gastroenterol Hepatol Bed Bench. 2015. Burden of gastrointestinal cancers in Asia, an overview. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4285928/>

² World Cancer Research Fund Institute. Stomach cancer. <http://www.wcrf.org/int/cancer-facts-figures/data-specific-cancers/stomach-cancer-statistics>

³ Rubayat Rahman, Akwi W Asombang, and Jamal A Ibdah. World Journal of Gastroenterology. 2014. Characteristics of gastric cancer in Asia. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4000485/>

⁴ Morrero, J. Cambridge University Press. Epidemiology of hepatocellular carcinoma and cholangiocarcinoma. http://assets.cambridge.org/97805215/19519/excerpt/9780521519519_excerpt.pdf



Professor Soo Khee Chee, Director, NCCS added: *"We are delighted to be working with another Singapore-based pharmaceutical company to help develop new treatment for especially the difficult cancers that we encounter in our region.*

"With the enthusiasm and drive from ASLAN and our critical clinical needs, we can forge a very strong partnership to benefit our patients. We will also help to achieve our national goal of being a leading biomedical science centre in the region."

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About ASLAN Pharmaceuticals

ASLAN Pharmaceuticals is an oncology focused biotechnology company developing a portfolio of high-value, differentiated clinical programmes. Led by a highly experienced management team with global pharmaceutical expertise, ASLAN is headquartered in Asia with a platform which reaches across the region via its offices in Singapore and Taiwan, enabling the Company to conduct and support regional clinical development programmes. The Company's proprietary pipeline of 4 development-stage candidates addresses multiple indications including gastric and breast cancers and inflammatory diseases. ASLAN's most advanced compounds are in phase 2: ASLAN001, a pan-HER inhibitor with phase 2 data in gastric cancer, being developed in cholangiocarcinoma, breast cancer and gastric cancer; and ASLAN002, which targets RON, an immune checkpoint inhibitor, and cMET.

www.aslanpharma.com

About National Cancer Centre Singapore

National Cancer Centre Singapore (NCCS) provides a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to cancer treatment and patient care. We treat almost 70 per cent of the public sector oncology cases, and they are benefiting from the specialisation of our clinical oncologists. NCCS is also accredited by the US-based Joint Commission International for its quality patient care and safety. To deliver among the best in cancer treatment and care, our clinicians work closely with our scientists who conduct robust cutting-edge clinical and translational research programmes which have been internationally recognised. NCCS strives to be a global leading cancer centre, and shares its expertise and knowledge by offering training to local and overseas medical professionals. www.nccs.com.sg