



PRESS RELEASE

ASLAN PHARMACEUTICALS, CANCER SCIENCE INSTITUTE OF SINGAPORE AND NATIONAL UNIVERSITY CANCER INSTITUTE, SINGAPORE TO COLLABORATE IN HAEMATOLOGIC CANCERS FOR ASLAN003

Singapore, 2 March 2017 – ASLAN Pharmaceuticals (ASLAN), a biotech company focused on the development of immunotherapies and targeted agents for Asia prevalent tumour types, today announced a research and development collaboration with the Cancer Science Institute of Singapore (CSI) and National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS) to investigate the potential of ASLAN003 as a monotherapy and in combination with other targeted agents for haematologic cancers, and rapidly advance the compound into oncology clinical trials.

The collaboration with CSI and NCIS will be led by Director of NCIS and Deputy Director of CSI, Professor Chng Wee Joo, whose work is primarily focused on identifying potential therapeutic strategies for haematological malignancies such as leukaemia.

ASLAN003 is a best-in-class, small molecule inhibitor of DiHydroOrotate DeHydrogenase (DHODH), an enzyme which catalyses the rate-limiting step in the synthesis of pyrimidines in mammalian cells. ASLAN003 is being developed for several oncology indications. The compound has completed the phase 1 trial and has been shown to have favourable pharmacokinetics and tolerability. According to a published article in *Cell*, DHODH has been identified as a therapeutic target for acute myeloid leukaemia¹.

Commenting on the collaboration, Dr Mark McHale, Chief Operating Officer of ASLAN Pharmaceuticals, said: *“Professor Chng and his team of clinical investigators have extensive experience in conducting world-class, cutting edge research in targeted agents for a disease area where advanced treatment is lagging. The collaboration with research institutes such as CSI and NCIS will enable ASLAN to accelerate the development of a best-in-class drug for a tumour type that is known to be one of the top ten cancers in Asia.”*

Professor Chng Wee Joo, Director of NCIS and Deputy Director of CSI, said: *“Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) remains an area of unmet medical need. Only about 40% of patients achieve long-term remission if they are only provided with chemotherapy and stem cell transplantation. The situation is worse in older patients who are unable to tolerate these very strong and toxic treatments.*

“Our group is focused on finding new and better treatments for AML, particularly those with a clear mechanistic underpinning. ASLAN003 is an oral agent that has a good tolerability profile and has very exciting preclinical results. We hope to work with ASLAN to rapidly bring this compound to clinical testing, and hope that it will benefit patients. We are very excited by this prospect.”

Ends

¹ Skyes, D.B et al. *Cell*, 2016. Inhibition of Dihydroorotate Dehydrogenase Overcomes Differentiation Blockade in Acute Myeloid Leukemia. 167(1), p171–186.e15.



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About Cancer Science Institute of Singapore

CSI Singapore is a state-of-the-art university research institute affiliated with, and hosted at the National University of Singapore. It was established in 2008, with a "Research Center of Excellence" grant, one of only five in Singapore, by the National Research Foundation and the Ministry of Education. Professor Daniel G. Tenen, MD, a leader in the field of transcriptional regulation, hematopoiesis, and cancer, was named its founding director.

The institute is an anchor for research expertise in three broad programs; Cancer Biology & Stem Cells, Experimental Therapeutics, and the RNA Biology Center; these programs form expansive platforms for CSI Singapore's focus on key cancer disease cancers in gastric, liver, lung and leukemia which are endemic in Asian populations. CSI Singapore aims to position Singapore as a global-leader in the field of Biomedical Sciences. Its mission: to conduct a multifaceted and coordinated approach to cancer research, extending from basic cancer studies all the way to experimental therapeutics and in so doing improve cancer treatment.

About National University Cancer Institute, Singapore

The National University Cancer Institute, Singapore (NCIS), a national specialty centre located at the National University Hospital (NUH), offers a broad spectrum of cancer care and management covering both paediatric and adult cancers, with expertise in prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care. The Institute adopts a multi-disciplinary approach to develop a comprehensive and personalised plan for each cancer patient and his or her family. NCIS draws on the expertise of its specialists in the fields of haematology-oncology, radiation oncology, gynaecologic oncology, paediatric oncology, surgical oncology, oncology nursing, oncology pharmacy, palliative care, pathology, radiology, medical specialties including gastroenterology and hepatology, infectious diseases, pulmonary and critical care, psychiatry, epidemiology and public health as well as other allied health sciences. NCIS is a member of the National University Health System (NUHS).

NCIS is also home to the Cancer Therapeutics Research Group, one of the few academic early phase cancer clinical trial groups spanning leading academic centers in Singapore, Hong Kong, Korea, Australia, and Taiwan. Its strength in research allows patients to access drugs and devices before they are commercially available. NCIS is closely affiliated with the Cancer Science Institute of Singapore, National University of Singapore. For more information about NCIS, visit www.ncis.com.sg

About ASLAN Pharmaceuticals

ASLAN Pharmaceuticals is an oncology focused biotechnology company developing a portfolio of immunotherapies and targeted drugs, focusing on Asia prevalent tumour types. Led by a highly experienced management team with global pharmaceutical expertise, ASLAN is headquartered in Singapore with a platform that reaches across the region via its offices in Taiwan, China and Australia, enabling the Company to conduct and support regional clinical development programmes. The Company is developing 5 drugs addressing multiple indications including biliary tract cancer, gastric cancer and breast cancer. ASLAN has several compounds in late stage development: *varlitinib* (ASLAN001), a pan-HER inhibitor which has completed phase 2 studies in gastric and breast cancers, and is entering pivotal studies for biliary tract cancer; and ASLAN002 (partnered with BMS), a RON and cMET inhibitor in phase 2 development for gastric and breast cancer. www.aslanpharma.com