

# Prescient Appoints Leading Cancer Researcher, Prof Phillip Darcy of Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, to Scientific Advisory Board

**MELBOURNE Australia, 7 August 2020** – Prescient Therapeutics (ASX: PTX), a biotechnology company developing targeted and personalised medicines for cancer, today announced the appointment of internationally renowned cancer and Chimeric Antigen Receptor-T (CAR-T) expert, Professor Phillip Darcy to its Scientific Advisory Board.

Professor Darcy is currently National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) senior research fellow and group leader of cancer immunotherapy at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne.

He is an acknowledged leader in the development of new CAR-T cell therapies for cancer. CAR-T cell therapy takes a patient's T cells – key blood cells that protect the body from infection and disease – and reprograms them into a personalised treatment that can detect and destroy cancer cells.

"Prescient is pursuing a number of promising approaches in cell therapy, including cell therapy enhancements, that have the potential to significantly broaden and improve existing approaches to CAR-T therapy," Professor Darcy said. "Another exciting development involves the OmniCAR platform. This approach may pave the way for a new generation of CAR-T cells that are capable of being controllable, targeting multiple antigens, and potentially used as an off-the-shelf product. I am excited to be able to participate in this important work for cancer patients."

Prescient Therapeutics CEO Steven Yatomi-Clarke said, "We are honoured to work with Professor Darcy who has devoted his career to improving the outcomes for cancer patients. His work and standing in this field are globally recognised. We believe Professor Darcy's contribution to our shared goal of making personalised cancer therapy available to more patients will be profound."

Professor Darcy's work is focused on developing T cell-based immunotherapy approaches for cancer treatments for patients. He is currently focused on the development of gene modified mouse and human T cells expressing CARs that target and eradicate cancer in mice. His work contributed to the first CAR-T clinical trial in acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) conducted in Australia, which recently announced successful Phase 1 completion. A new study using the same technique in lung



cancer patients is underway. His work is also focused on development of combined immune based therapies for cancer.

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## **About Prescient Therapeutics Limited (Prescient)**

Prescient Therapeutics is a clinical stage oncology company developing personalised medicine approaches to cancer, including targeted and cellular therapies.

#### **Cell Therapies**

**OmniCAR:** is a universal immune receptor platform enabling controllable T-cell activity and multi-antigen targeting with a single cell product. OmniCAR's modular CAR system decouples antigen recognition from the T-cell signalling domain. It is the first universal immune receptor allowing post-translational covalent loading of binders to T-cells. OmniCAR is based on technology licensed from Penn; the SpyTag/SpyCatcher binding system licensed from Oxford University; and other assets.

The targeting ligand can be administered separately to CAR-T cells, creating on-demand T-cell activity post infusion and enables the CAR-T to be directed to an array of different tumour antigens.

OmniCAR provides a method for single-vector, single cell product targeting of multiple antigens simultaneous or sequentially, whilst allowing continual re-arming to generate, regulate and diversify a sustained T-cell response over time.

Cell Therapy: Prescient has several other initiatives underway to develop new cell therapy approaches.

#### Targeted Therapies

**PTX-100** is a first in class compound with the ability to block an important cancer growth enzyme known as geranylgeranyl transferase-1 (GGT-1). It disrupts oncogenic Ras pathways by inhibiting the activation of Rho, Rac and Ral circuits in cancer cells, leading to apoptosis (death) of cancer cells. PTX-100 is believed to be the only RhoA inhibitor in the world in clinical development. PTX-100 is currently in a PK/PD basket study of hematological and solid malignancies, focusing on cancers with Ras and RhoA mutations. In a previous Phase 1 trial in advanced solid tumours, PTX-100 was well tolerated and achieved stable disease.

PTX-200 is a novel PH domain inhibitor that inhibits an important tumour survival pathway known as Akt, which plays a key role in the development of many cancers, including breast and ovarian cancer, as well as leukemia. Unlike other drug candidates that target Akt inhibition which are non-specific kinase inhibitors that have toxicity problems, PTX-200 has a novel mechanism of action that specifically inhibits Akt whilst being comparatively safer. This highly promising compound has encouraging Phase 2a data in HER2-negative breast cancer; Phase 1b/2 in relapsed and refractory AML and Phase 1b in recurrent or persistent platinum resistant ovarian cancer:

# **COVID-19 Therapies**

Two assets are being assessed by the Doherty Institute for antiviral activity against SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19 disease.

Find out more at ptxtherapeutics.com, or connect with us via Twitter @PTX\_AUS and LinkedIn.

The Board of Prescient Therapeutics Limited has approved the release of this announcement.

## For more information please contact:

Steven Yatomi-Clarke
CEO & Managing Director
Prescient Therapeutics

Investor enquiries:
Warrick Lace – Reach Markets
+61 404 656 408
warrick lace@reachmarkets.com

Media enquiries:
Andrew Geddes – CityPR
+61 2 9267 4511

 $\underline{steven@ptxtherapeutics.com} \quad \underline{warrick.lace@reachmarkets.com.au} \quad \underline{ageddes@citypublicrelations.com.au}$ 



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#### **Supplemental COVID-19 Risk Factors**

Please see our website: Supplemental COVID-19 Risk Factors