Ascend and 3M to Collaborate on a Novel Cancer Vaccine

Agreement to assess 3M’s TLR7/8 agonist 3M-051 in combination with Ascend’s cancer targeting platform

Melbourne, Australia – 29th of November 2013— Ascend Biopharma today announces that is has entered into an agreement with 3M Drug Delivery Systems to evaluate 3M’s Toll-Like Receptor 7/8 (TLR7/8) agonist 3M-051 in combination with Ascend’s proprietary cancer vaccine technology. The collaboration will support the creation and preclinical assessment of novel immunotherapy treatments to be potentially used for a number of different solid tumor types.

Under the terms of the agreement, 3M will provide access to the proprietary TLR7/8 agonist 3M-051 that will be chemically conjugated to Ascend’s ASN platform – an antigen presenting, cell targeting and delivery technology that allows vaccine antigens and immune modulators to be selectively targeted to specialized antigen presenting cells.

An important feature of Ascend’s targeting platform is its ability to efficiently enable cross presentation and to allow the generation of a strong cytotoxic CD8+ T cell response to a vaccine antigen in addition to a strong antibody response. Many earlier generations of cancer vaccines had a tendency to generate predominantly CD4+ T cell responses but only weak CD8+ T cell responses.

“Our research has demonstrated encouraging clinical and immunological responses and we believe the chemical conjugation of a potent TLR agonist could confer further improvements to the previously observed clinical responses,” said Dr. Clement Leong, Chief Executive Officer at Ascend Biopharma. “The 3M TLR7/8 agonist 3M-051 is clearly a best-in-class compound, and we are particularly excited in exploiting this with our cancer vaccine platform.”

Both companies will contribute to the collaboration with 3M providing good laboratory practices (GLP) and good manufacturing practices (GMP) material for preclinical and clinical studies. These preclinical studies will last up to 12 months. No further terms have been disclosed.

“3M is pleased to provide our TLR7/8 agonist 3M-051 to Ascend Biopharma for use in combination with its cancer vaccines. The collaboration provides further validation of the utility of 3M’s adjuvant portfolio,” said James Ingebrand, President & General Manager at 3M Drug Delivery Systems.
About 3M Drug Delivery Systems

3M Drug Delivery Systems partners with pharmaceutical and biotech companies to develop and manufacture pharmaceutical products using 3M's inhalation, transdermal or microneedle drug delivery technology. 3M offers a full range of feasibility, development and manufacturing capabilities to help bring products to market. Regulatory expertise, quality assurance, operations, marketed product support and other in-house resources are available for each step of the development and commercialization process. For more information, please visit www.3M.com/dds or call 1-800-643-8086.

About 3M

3M captures the spark of new ideas and transforms them into thousands of ingenious products. Our culture of creative collaboration inspires a never-ending stream of powerful technologies that make life better. 3M is the innovation company that never stops inventing. With $30 billion in sales, 3M employs 88,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 70 countries. For more information, visit www.3M.com or follow @3MNews on Twitter.

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About Ascend Biopharmaceuticals

Ascend is a clinical-stage company developing innovative cancer treatments. The company focuses on identifying disease settings where targeting the disease microenvironment or important cell types can bring about meaningful improvements in clinical outcomes. Ascend has two clinical stage immunotherapy programs that have undergone previous clinical evaluation. The first product, ASN-002, will be assessed in basal cell carcinoma patients while the second product, ASN-004, is a pan-cancer therapeutic vaccine that will be studied in early stage breast cancer. For more information, please visit www.ascendbiopharma.com or call +61 3 8606 3488