



MEDIA RELEASE

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Ascend Biopharmaceuticals announces favourable clinical results in a study evaluating adoptive T cell therapy combined with ASN-002 in advanced metastatic melanoma patients.

March 23rd 2015. Ascend Biopharmaceuticals, a Melbourne-based immunotherapy company, has today announced the publication of a report utilising ASN-002 (formerly TG1042) for the treatment of metastatic melanoma patients in the Journal Cancer Immunology Immunotherapy (Cancer Immunol immunother. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/25846669>).

Ascend Biopharmaceuticals entered into an exclusive world-wide License agreement with Transgene in July of 2013 to develop ASN-002 (named TG1042 under Transgene) as an immunotherapy for multiple cancers including skin cancers (which includes metastatic melanoma). Ascend is also currently conducting a clinical study with ASN-002 in nodular Basal Cell Carcinoma patients.

The article reports a clinical study conducted in 18 stage IIIc/IV melanoma patients treated with tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) in combination with intra-tumoral ASN-002 injection. The primary objective was to investigate the safety of the treatment with secondary objective to evaluate the clinical response. The treatment was well tolerated which is consistent with previous studies in cutaneous T and B cell lymphoma using this agent. In 13 patients evaluable for tumor response, 38.5% had an overall objective response (OOR=CR+PR) and disease control rate (DCR=CR+PR+S) of 46%. The clinical response of the 37 targeted lesions led to an OOR of 51% and a DCR of 75%. The clinical response correlated with CD3-/CD56+ NK cells that may be activated by ASN-002.

“This is a small investigator initiated study but the results reconfirm that the treatment is well tolerated and can be effective even in an aggressive disease like advance melanoma,” Ascend CEO Clement Leong said. “This study also supports the notion of combining ASN-002 with other immunotherapies that augment T cells against cancers such as CAR-T therapy or immune checkpoint inhibitors, which may be necessary in the context of solid cancers,” he said.

According to the WHO, the incidence of both non-melanoma and melanoma skin cancers has been increasing over the past decades. Currently about 132,000 melanoma skin cancers occur globally each year.

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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