



MEDIA RELEASE

ASCEND SIGNS R&D collaboration Agreement with Fox Chase Cancer Center

02nd May 2016

Ascend Biopharmaceuticals Ltd, a Melbourne based, clinical stage biotechnology company developing novel cancer treatments, has entered into an R&D collaboration with leading US Fox Chase Cancer Center based in Philadelphia. The collaboration will undertake R&D focusing on novel treatments and clinical strategies to induce specific types of programmed cell death. Recent advancement in the field of programmed/regulated cell death have demonstrated that by targeting specific cellular pathways, a definitive form of immunogenic cell death can be evoked even in cancers that are resistant to conventional forms of biologic or chemotherapy. The significance of this discovery is that in addition to directly destroying cancers, a potent systemic immune response can also be conferred by the dying cells. This highly immunogenic death can potentially lead to more durable clinical benefits in cancer patients.

The collaboration with Associate Professor Siddharth Balachandran whose laboratory is making important contributions to understanding how necroptosis is involved in cancer and infectious diseases. The Balachandran lab has an interest in understanding the mechanisms by which infectious agents trigger cell death, and in exploiting these cell death pathways for the treatment of human disease, whether infectious, inflammatory or malignant.

Dr Clement Leong, Chief Executive Officer of Ascend, commented "We are delighted to have the opportunity to work with a leading group on the vanguard of this exciting area of cancer biology in one of the leading institutions in the US. This broad based collaboration will assist Ascend in developing new cutting-edge preclinical candidates, but will also have immediate clinical relevance to the company's current clinical programs. In particular, pilot work that has already been undertaken by Professor Balachandran's lab is anticipated to be rapidly translated into Ascend's current clinic studies".

A/Prof Siddharth Balachandran will also be a scientific advisor to Ascend Biopharmaceuticals and join the company's advisory board.

-ENDS-



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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 key 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.

About FCCC:

The Hospital of Fox Chase Cancer Center and its affiliates (collectively “Fox Chase Cancer Center”), a member of the Temple University Health System, is one of the leading cancer research and treatment centers in the United States. Founded in 1904 in Philadelphia as one of the nation’s first cancer hospitals, Fox Chase was also among the first institutions to be designated a National Cancer Institute Comprehensive Cancer Center in 1974. Fox Chase researchers have won the highest awards in their fields, including two Nobel Prizes. Fox Chase physicians are also routinely recognized in national rankings, and the Center’s nursing program has received the Magnet recognition for excellence four consecutive times. Today, Fox Chase conducts a broad array of nationally competitive basic, translational, and clinical research, with special programs in cancer prevention, detection, survivorship and community outreach.

For more information, call 0011 1-888-FOX CHASE or (0011 1-888-369-2427).