



## **Ascend Biopharmaceuticals Update on ASN-002 Nodular Basal Cell Carcinoma (nBCC) Trial and Recruitment of US Clinical Advisors**

*Overall Objective Response rate for medium and high dose cohorts was 100% and Complete Response (histological clearance) rate was 89%*

**Melbourne, Australia, May 3, 2017** – Ascend Biopharmaceuticals Ltd, a clinical stage immuno-oncology company developing novel cancer treatments, today announced completion of the intermediate dose cohort in its on-going Phase I/IIa clinical trial. Twelve patients have completed the study evaluating the safety and clinical activity of ASN-002 in nodular basal cell carcinoma. The trial is designed to assess the safety, tolerability and clinical response of ASN-002 administered intra-tumourally in up to 18 adult patients (up to 6 patients per cohort in three cohorts). The trial is assessing escalating doses of ASN-002 and all cohorts receive one injection per week for three weeks. The primary endpoints are clinical and histological clearance and overall safety.

Treatment has been well tolerated with favorable clinical signals supporting efficacy. The Complete Response (CR, i.e. histological clearance) rate was 100% (3/3) in the high dose cohort. In the intermediate dose cohort, the CR rate was 83% (5/6) patients and one patient had a partial response. Thus, the overall Objective Response Rate for the medium and high dose groups was 100%. The high dose cohort is now fully recruited and histological responses will be available in early 2H, 2017.

Ascend is planning confirmatory studies of the activity of ASN-002 in BCNS patients in a forthcoming trial to be conducted in the United States and Australia. BCNS Basal Cell Nevus Syndrome (BCNS) is an orphan disease with a high incidence of BCC. To assist with plans to commence studies in the United States, Ascend has recruited US dermatologists Dr Jeffrey Dover and Dr Anna Bar onto its Clinical Advisory Board. Dr. Dover received his dermatology training at the University of Toronto followed by research fellowships at St. John's Hospital for Diseases of the Skin at the University of London and a fellowship at the Beth Israel and Massachusetts General Hospitals of Harvard Medical School. Dr. Dover was Associate Chairman, Department of Dermatology, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and Associate Professor of Dermatology at Harvard Medical School. He now co-directs SkinCare Physicians of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, USA. Dr.



Bar received her medical degree from New York University Medical School, dermatology training at Oregon Health Sciences University and subspecialty training in Mohs surgery and cosmetic and laser surgery at the California Skin Institute, the largest private practice dermatology group in California. She is now Assistant Professor of Dermatology and co-director of Mohs micrographic surgery at Oregon Health Sciences University and has lectured and taught courses at national meetings of the American Academy of Dermatology, the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery, and the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery.

-END-

**About Ascend Biopharmaceuticals**

Ascend is a cancer immunotherapy company developing medicines to treat primary, recurrent and metastatic cancers. Ascend applies a number of different technologies and approaches utilizing viral vectors, and affinity agents that can be conjugated to deliver biologicals and small molecule (immune modulators or chemotherapeutics) payloads. We believe that applying a combination chemo-immunotherapeutic approach has the potential to materially improve therapeutic outcomes.

Please visit [www.ascendbiopharma.com](http://www.ascendbiopharma.com) or call +61 3 8606 3488.

**Company Contact:**

Clement Leong  
Ascend Biopharmaceuticals, CEO  
T: + 61 3 8606 3401  
E: [clementleong@ascendbiopharma.com](mailto:clementleong@ascendbiopharma.com)

**Investor Relations Contact:**

Tram Bui  
The Ruth Group  
T: 646 536 7035  
E: [tbui@theruthgroup.com](mailto:tbui@theruthgroup.com)

Media Relations Contact: Christopher Hippolyte The Ruth Group

T: 646-536-7023  
E: [chippolyte@theruthgroup.com](mailto:chippolyte@theruthgroup.com)

