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## Nature Biotechnology article highlights IGF-I receptor as high interest cancer drug target

- **Progress in clinical development of IGF-I receptor blockers for cancer updated in July 2008 issue of Nature Biotechnology**
- **Antisense Therapeutics' IGF-I receptor drug ATL1101 cited as novel approach to important therapeutic target**
- **ATL1101 research programme in prostate cancer on track for reporting of results in 2H08**

The leading biotechnology journal, Nature Biotechnology, has this month provided an update on progress in the clinical development of IGF-I receptor blockers in a range of cancers, in an article titled "Commercial interest waxes for IGF-1 blockers".

The article<sup>1</sup> lists IGF-I receptor-targeting drugs being developed by major pharmaceutical companies Pfizer, ImClone, Roche/Genmab, Merck, Amgen and Sanofi-Aventis, all of which are in clinical trials ranging from the Phase I to the Phase III stage. The most advanced drug is Pfizer's CP-751,871, a humanised monoclonal antibody that recently entered Phase III clinical trials in non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and which is in clinical trials in several other cancers including prostate cancer.

The Nature Biotechnology article also cites pre-clinical IGF-I receptor drug development programmes at Bristol-Myers Squibb and Novartis, and for the first time in such a high profile report, Antisense Therapeutics (ASX:ANP) and its drug ATL1101 were included. ATL1101 is a second generation antisense drug that targets the IGF-I receptor.

ANP has an early focus on hormone refractory prostate cancer (HRPC). ANP currently has a collaborative research programme underway with Prof. Martin Gleave, a leader in prostate cancer treatment and drug development. Prof. Gleave is Distinguished Professor, Department of Urological Sciences, University of British Columbia and Director of The Prostate Centre at Vancouver General Hospital. ANP and Prof. Gleave are investigating the potential of ATL1101 to suppress tumour growth in mouse models of HPRC, with findings from this research expected to be reported before the end of the year.

"ATL1101 provides an alternative therapeutic mechanism to inhibit a 'hot target' in cancer research" said Antisense Therapeutics' Research Director, Dr Christopher Wraight. "The unique nature of ATL1101 is recognised by its inclusion in this high profile article as the only named RNA-targeting IGF-I receptor blocker."

"The clinical advances of Pfizer and other companies targeting the IGF-I receptor support the approach we are taking with ATL1101."

<sup>1</sup> Osborne, R.: Commercial interest waxes for IGF-1 blockers. *Nat Biotechnol* **26**, 719-20 (2008).

### Background Information

**ATL1101** is an antisense inhibitor of IGF-Ir which has shown potent activity in laboratory studies, including in human cancer cells. IGF-Ir is one of the best known of a family of cell signaling molecules that are referred to as "anti-apoptotic". These molecules prolong cell survival by inhibiting programmed cell death (apoptosis). The connection between IGF-Ir activity and prostate cell tumorigenicity has been studied for many years. Inhibition of cell survival molecules like IGF-Ir can render tumour cells more susceptible to cell death with cytotoxic (cell death inducing) drugs. Similar "chemosensitiser" therapeutic approaches targeting the IGF-Ir are under investigation in several large pharmaceutical companies, lending support to our own antisense-based strategy against the same target.

**Prostate cancer** is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in men after skin cancer. It is estimated there will be 218,890 new cases diagnosed in the U.S. this year. Around 1 in 6 men will develop prostate cancer, a third to a half of whom will recur after local treatment and risk progression to metastatic prostate cancer. Metastatic disease invariably progresses to hormone refractory prostate cancer (HRPC) if given enough time. Treatment options are limited for HRPC, and prognosis is poor. There is a pressing need for the development of new treatments.

**Antisense Therapeutics Limited (ASX: ANP)** is an Australian publicly listed biopharmaceutical drug discovery and development company. Its mission is to create, develop and commercialise antisense pharmaceuticals for large unmet markets. ANP has two drugs in development and two drugs in pre-clinical research. ATL/TV1102 (injection) has completed a Phase IIa trial as a potential treatment of multiple sclerosis. ATL1103 is a second-generation antisense drug designed to lower blood IGF-I levels and is entering pre-clinical development as a potential treatment for acromegaly and vision disorders. ATL/TV1102 (inhaled) is at the pre-clinical research stage as a potential treatment for asthma. ATL1101 is a second-generation antisense drug at the pre-clinical research stage being investigated as a potential treatment for prostate cancer. ATL/TV1102 has been licensed to Teva Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.

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