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CAVATAK™ DISPLAYS POTENT ONCOLYTIC ACTIVITY IN CELLS RESISTANT TO NEW MELANOMA TREATMENT

Viralytics Limited (ASX: VLA, OTC: VRACY)

Viralytics is pleased to announce that a paper focusing on exciting pre-clinical studies showing that CAVATAK™ displays potent oncolytic activity against melanoma cells that possess resistance to selective BRAF kinase inhibitors, including the recently FDA approved BRAF kinase inhibitor melanoma treatment, Vemurafenib (ZELBORAF™, Hoffman-La Roche Inc.) has been accepted for poster presentation at the 8th International Congress of The Society for Melanoma Research, 9-11 November 2011, Tampa, Florida.

The paper entitled “CAVATAK™ (Coxsackievirus A21) displays potent oncolytic activity in BRAFV600E mutant melanoma cells which show resistance to selective BRAF kinase inhibitors” will be presented by Dr Darren Shafren, Viralytics Chief Scientific Officer.

The exciting pre-clinical studies show that CAVATAK™ retains potent oncolytic activity against melanoma cells that have generated resistance to selective BRAF kinase inhibitors including the recently approved melanoma treatment, Vemurafenib (a product produced by Hoffman-La Roche Inc and Plexxikon/Daiichi Sankyo).

Vemurafenib is a small molecule drug designed to selectively inhibit the mutated BRAF V600E kinase which occurs in the melanoma cells of about 50% of patients.

The preliminary pre-clinical data suggest that CAVATAK™ may possess the potential to work in combination or in sequential regimes with Vemurafenib in mediating direct killing of malignant melanoma cells.

Roche is pursuing a broad development program with Vemurafenib including additional research with combination treatments. It is thought that combining Vemurafenib with other combinations of products could lead to better outcomes for melanoma patients with the BRAFV600E mutation.

Following the presentation of the above paper, it will be made available on the Viralytics website.
About Viralytics Ltd: Viralytics is listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX code: VLA), Viralytics ADR trades under VRACY on the OTC market in the USA. Viralytics’ principal asset is the intellectual property relating to CAVATAK™, an Oncolytic Virus technology. CAVATAK™ is the trade name for Viralytics’ proprietary formulation of the Coxsackievirus Type A21 (CVA21). EVATAK™ is the trade name for Viralytics’ proprietary formulation of the Echovirus Type 1 (EV1). CVA21 and EV1 are viruses that occur naturally in the community. CVA21 and EV1 attach to the outside of cells, using a specific receptor on the cell’s surface (like a key fitting a lock). CVA21 uses the receptors, intercellular adhesion molecule-1 (ICAM-1) and/or decay accelerating factor (DAF) to bind and infect target cells. Both of these receptor proteins have been demonstrated to be highly expressed on multiple cancer types, including: melanoma, prostate cancer, breast cancer, multiple myeloma and others. EV1 uses the receptor, integrin α2β1 (alpha 2 beta 1) receptor to bind and infect target cells. Integrin α2β1 (alpha 2 beta 1) has been demonstrated to be highly expressed on multiple cancer types, including: prostate cancer, ovarian cancer and others.