

## ASX Announcement

### Prescient Collaboration with Carina Biotech to Develop Next Generation CAR-T Therapies

- Collaboration aims to improve CAR-T cell therapies for solid and blood tumours, generating new IP to be shared equally between Prescient and Carina
- Combines Carina's promising CAR-T technologies with Prescient's expertise in drug development
- Prescient's first foray into cellular therapy
- Strengthens Prescient's pipeline of targeted cancer therapeutics

**MELBOURNE, Australia – 18 November 2019** – Prescient Therapeutics Limited (ASX: PTX) ("**Prescient**"), a clinical stage company developing personalised medicine approaches to cancer, today announced that it has entered into a collaboration with private CAR-T company Carina Biotech to develop new targeted cell therapies for cancer patients with solid tumours.

The collaboration will combine Prescient's expertise in the development of targeted therapies with Carina's promising CAR-T technologies to develop CAR-T combination therapies to treat a range of solid cancers. The work will be undertaken within Prescient's current budget and will not require additional capital. The exact terms of the agreement and collaboration are confidential. Prescient and Carina would share any resulting intellectual property from the collaboration.

CAR-T cell (or Chimeric Antigen Receptor T cell) therapy is a ground-breaking approach to cancer treatment that uses a cancer patient's own immune system to target and attack cancer. The technique has been used to outstanding effect against certain blood cancers (particularly B cell malignancies) but to date has been less effective against other hematological and solid cancers. Many solid cancers have proven notoriously difficult to breach using immunotherapies like checkpoint inhibitors, yet account for the majority of cancers diagnosed, presenting an area of particular unmet medical need.

Steven Yatomi-Clarke, Managing Director and CEO of Prescient Therapeutics, commented: "This is an exciting new frontier for Prescient. We've been committed to changing the cancer treatment paradigm with personalised medicine approaches – first with targeted therapies (PTX-100 and PTX-200), and now with cellular therapies (CAR-T). In many ways, CAR-T is the ultimate personalised medicine, with bespoke modification of an individual patient's T cells to combat cancer. For some time we have been very interested in the potential to combine our knowledge of targeted therapies with novel cell therapies to improve outcomes in a range of challenging tumour types, and see this new collaboration with Carina as a way to deliberately guide the development of complementary CAR T technologies".

"We are very pleased to have this opportunity to collaborate with Carina, working with them to develop novel CAR-T approaches. Significant clinical and scientific progress is being made in cell and gene therapies, transforming the treatment of a number of cancers, particularly patients with solid tumours who are in need of equally effective treatments."

"The collaboration with Carina builds on Prescient's knowledge of biochemical pathways, and targeted therapies," added Mr Yatomi-Clarke. "Leveraging Carina's unique technologies for next generation cell therapy engineering will further enhance the benefit and risk profile of Prescient's current lead programs and other targeted cancer therapies in the pipeline. We look forward to working with Carina's world-class scientists"

Dr Justin Coombs, Managing Director of Carina Biotech, said: "Early pre-clinical data from our CAR T-cells targeting solid tumours have been very positive, and we are actively exploring a number of approaches to enhance response rates in these cancers. We look forward to reaping the benefits of combining expertise, and believe there is an opportunity for these technologies to be used as a platform for multiple new cell and gene therapies that can be applied across a broad range of rare and prevalent cancers."

"Immunotherapy business development activity is rising and companies like ours are in a global race to develop promising targeted cancer immune therapies. Collaboration is key, and working together will speed up the process to identify potential new cancer therapies," Mr Coombs added.

Carina's scientific and management team is highly experienced in the field of immune cell therapy and commercialisation of promising biotechnologies. The company is chaired by Dr Leanna Read, the former chief scientist of South Australia and CEO and Chair of the Cooperative Research Centre for Cell Therapy Manufacturing.

The collaboration will build on Prescient's in-house development expertise including CSO Professor Said Sebti, PhD, named by *Nature* as one of the top 20 translational researchers in

the world. Other key members of the Prescient team have extensive experience bringing new oncology therapies to market with leading international companies such as GSK, Array BioPharma and Pfizer.

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## Notes to Editors

### CAR-T therapies

CAR-T cell therapy involves removing patient T cells, re-engineering them, and introducing them back into the body, where they target and attack cancer cells.

Global medical and investor interest in CAR therapies has grown since 2017, when Novartis' Kymriah CAR-T cell medicine became the first gene therapy to receive US regulatory approval. Kymriah was approved for use in Australia in December 2018. One other CAR-T cell therapy, Yescarta, has also been approved for use in the US for certain types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, another blood cancer.

Despite the success of CAR-T therapies against haematological cancers, CAR-T cell therapies have not yet delivered strong clinical results in solid tumour clinical trials. The lack of response of solid cancers to CAR-T therapies is thought to be due, largely, to a lack of suitable solid cancer target antigens to provide the basis for a targeted and effective CAR-T cells. A range of CAR-T cells are being investigated but most of these target markers that are present in only a small number of cancers and/or are also present on healthy cells. As a consequence, efficacy and safety are compromised.

### About Prescient Therapeutics Limited (Prescient)

Prescient Therapeutics is a clinical stage oncology company developing personalised medicine approaches to cancer, including targeted and cellular therapies.

**PTX-100** is a first in class compound with the ability to block an important cancer growth enzyme known as geranylgeranyl transferase-1 (GGT-1). It disrupts oncogenic Ras pathways by inhibiting the activation of Rho, Rac and Ral circuits in cancer cells, leading to apoptosis (death) of cancer cells. PTX-100 is believed to be the only RhoA inhibitor in the world in clinical development. PTX-100 is currently in a PK/PD basket study of hematological and solid malignancies, focusing on cancers with Ras and RhoA mutations. In a previous Phase 1 trial in advanced solid tumors, PTX-100 was well tolerated and achieved stable disease.

**PTX-200** is a novel PH domain inhibitor that inhibits an important tumor survival pathway known as Akt, which plays a key role in the development of many cancers, including breast and ovarian cancer, as well as leukemia. Unlike other drug candidates that target Akt inhibition which are non-specific kinase inhibitors that have toxicity problems, PTX-200 has a novel mechanism of action that specifically inhibits Akt whilst being comparatively safer. This highly promising compound is now the focus of three current clinical trials:

- Phase 2 study examining PTX-200 in breast cancer patients at the prestigious Montefiore Cancer Center in New York and Florida's H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center (Moffitt). PTX-200 showed encouraging efficacy signals in the Phase 1b study, with twice the expected response rate. Responses have demonstrated durability in the study so far.
- Phase 1b/2 trial evaluating PTX-200 as a new therapy for relapsed and refractory Acute Myeloid Leukemia, being conducted the Moffitt; Yale Cancer Center in New Haven, Connecticut (Yale) and Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC) under the leadership of Professor Jeffrey Lancet, MD.
- Phase 1b/2 trial of PTX-200 in combination with current standard of care is also underway in patients with recurrent or persistent platinum resistant ovarian cancer at the Moffitt.

Find out more at [ptxtherapeutics.com](http://ptxtherapeutics.com), or connect with us via Twitter [@PTX\\_AUS](https://twitter.com/PTX_AUS) and [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ptxtherapeutics).

## About Carina Biotech

Carina Biotech, based in Adelaide, Australia, was established in 2016 with a focus on producing CAR-T therapies against novel molecular targets to attack a broad range of solid cancers.

Carina Biotech's lead CAR-T cell, CNA1003, is targeted at a marker that has been found on a wide range of solid tumours but is largely absent from healthy tissues. So far, CNA1003 has shown in vitro anti-cancer activity in over 20 cancer cell lines across 12 cancers, including a number of high-incidence solid cancers and rare paediatric cancers. Carina also has in vivo data of animal safety and tumour growth/metastasis suppression in two mouse xenograft models of high-incidence solid cancers.

As well as progressing CNA1003 through the preclinical pipeline, Carina Biotech is developing complementary technologies to address the other major challenges identified in producing an effective CAR-T cell therapy for solid tumours. These include technologies to enhance CAR-T cells' ability to home in on specific cancers, and a thermoresponsive gel formulation that keeps the CAR-T cells in situ after being injected directly into tumours and tumour resection sites, thus increasing their efficacy.

### For more information please contact:

Steven Yatomi-Clarke  
CEO & Managing Director  
Prescient Therapeutics Limited  
+61 417 601 440

Andrew Geddes  
CityPR  
+61 2 9267 4511

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