



BioPharmica Limited

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BioPharmica (ASX: BPH) ASX Announcement

HLS5 Screening yields New Drug Leads

Following their initial discovery of the HLS5 gene, researchers at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) have shown that increased expression of the HLS5 gene in human cancer cells can profoundly suppress tumour growth, and they have recently found that HLS5 interacts with a number of proteins which control cell growth and maturation.

In order to exploit these findings for therapeutic applications, BioPharmica has undertaken an extensive screening programme of compounds that can modulate HLS5 activity. The initial high-throughput screening of 70,000 synthetic compounds was recently completed, yielding 43 molecules that demonstrate potential for further anti-tumour analyses and drug development. The evaluation of the growth-inhibitory activity and therapeutic potential of these molecules is actively being pursued at WAIMR in conjunction with other leading specialist research facilities in Australia.

Recent research results indicate that nearly half of the compounds can suppress the growth of human cancer cells. Further, by computer modeling it has been determined that nearly all of these growth-inhibitory molecules demonstrate drug-like qualities and are therefore highly suitable candidates for pharmaceutical development. BioPharmica therefore intends to progress this drug pipeline toward pre-clinical testing of anti-cancer activity.

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Yours sincerely,

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