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EpiAxis Therapeutics recruits first Phase 1 patient

EpiAxis Therapeutics Pty Ltd (EpiAxis), a University of Canberra spin out company, has recruited the first patient into its Phase 1b clinical trial for patients with metastatic breast cancer.

The Company plans to recruit 13 patients for its “proof of concept” trial in which patients will receive the standard of care chemotherapeutic agent Abraxane[®] (nanoparticle albumin-bound paclitaxel) in combination with Nardil[®] (phenelzine sulfate). Nardil has been shown to inhibit lysine specific demethylase 1 (LSD1), which EpiAxis believes is the pivotal epigenetic enzyme responsible for the proliferation of cancer stem cells (CSC).

The Phase 1 trial is based at the Canberra Region Cancer Centre. Professor Desmond Yip and Dr Laeeq Malik are the Co-Coordinating Chief Investigators. Further details on the trial can be found at www.ANZCTR.org.au/ACTRN12617000943347.aspx

The research behind the Company is from Professor Sudha Rao’s Epigenomics & Transcription Cancer Laboratory located at the University of Canberra. Professor Rao was the first to identify the pivotal role that LSD1 plays in the proliferation of CSC.

“This marks a very important milestone for the Company and ultimately for patients, as it is the first time the combination of these two drugs is being investigated in a metastatic setting in a clinical trial environment” said Dr Chrisp. “It will also shape our understanding of CSCs and inform the advancement of our next generation LSD1 inhibitors,” said Dr Chrisp.