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# PHEBRA ANNOUNCES NEW LICENSING AGREEMENT WITH FRENCH BIOPHARMA FIRM MEDSENIC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS ORAL ARSENIC TRIOXIDE FORMULATION IN THE TREATMENT OF CHRONIC GRAFT-VERSUS-HOST AND AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

Australian pharmaceutical group Phebra is pleased to announce an exclusive licensing agreement with French biopharmaceutical company Medsenic, for the development of Phebra's patented oral formulation of arsenic trioxide in the treatment chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGvHD) and autoimmune diseases.

Research programs are being developed to understand the positive effects of unique formulations of arsenic trioxide in human clinical trials. Medsenic has provided initial proof of concept in a Phase 2a clinical trial for the treatment of severe systemic lupus erythematosus, followed by positive results in the treatment of cGvHD. These pre-clinical safety and efficacy data pave the way for further Phase 2b/3 trials.

Phebra's agreement with Medsenic is a major step in paving the way for the marketing of a second generation of Medsenic's drug candidates, until now dispensed as an intravenous solution of arsenic trioxide (Arscimed®). Phebra's expertise in drug development, together with Medsenic's clinically validated scientific discoveries, will confirm further the efficacy of ATO observed in a phase 2 study, by switching to the novel and patient administered oral form of arsenic trioxide (oATO).

Announcing the partnership with Medsenic today, Phebra's Executive Director of Research, Dr Mal Eutick said: "We're excited to be partnering with Medsenic on the development of Phebra's oATO as a treatment of cGvHD and other autoimmune diseases. Given Phebra's history of successfully implementing ATO research programs in areas such as Acute Promyelocytic Leukaemia (APL), we have been impressed by the clinical results obtained by Medsenic in the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus and chronic graft-versus-host disease (cGvHD) with its product Arscimed®as an intravenous solution.

"We are confident that the properties of arsenic trioxide observed in various clinical studies have the potential to revolutionise the therapeutic management of autoimmune diseases where there remains a huge unmet medical need. Phebra's novel patented oral formulation of arsenic trioxide will contribute to a significant improvement in patient care, avoiding frequent hospital stays and injections. oATO may also lead to potentially less adverse effects."

Phebra Chief Executive Officer, Andre Vlok, added: "Our exciting new partnership with Medsenic will see Phebra strengthen its international expansion strategy of delivering ATO and other critical care products into new global markets."

Prof. François Rieger, President and co-founder of Medsenic, said: "We are delighted with this partnership with Phebra, renowned for its unique expertise in the development and formulation of critical care medicines and a specific expertise in arsenic-based drugs. This exclusive agreement reflects Medsenic's commitment to pursue the development of its pipeline of drug candidates targeting autoimmune diseases ; it will allow us to initiate our Phase 3 clinical trial for the treatment of cGvHD and to develop our products in new indications."

**About Phebra**

Phebra is an Australian based specialty pharmaceutical company which develops, manufactures and markets critical medicines in Australia and across the world.

***At Phebra, we create critical medicines that save and improve lives.***

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