

Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX) | ASX Announcement | 12 May 2021

# **NOXCOVID Trial Achieves Full Enrolment**

- NOXCOVID study fully enrolled following 1800mg dose of Veyonda<sup>®</sup> determined to be well tolerated in patients with compromised lung function
- Analysis of blood biomarkers of 'cytokine storm' continuing.

Sydney 12 May 2021: Australian clinical-stage drug development company Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX) is pleased to provide a further update on its NOXCOVID study looking into the potential of Veyonda<sup>®</sup> to block the cytokine release syndrome (CRS), or 'cytokine storm', and improve the outcomes in patients hospitalised with COVID-19.

Part 2 of the NOXCOVID study has now been fully enrolled. The Company acknowledges its appreciation of the trial clinicians at the three trial sites who have achieved this in the face of strong pressure on hospital services from three waves of infection and the emergence of more virulent SARS-CoV-2 variants.

As previously communicated to the market (*ASX: 8 Mar 21*), Part 2 of the study proceeded on the basis of the positive safety findings of NOXCOVID, Part 1, where the 1800mg dose was found to be well tolerated by patients with compromised lung function.

Continuing analysis of blood samples for biomarkers of CRS and severity of COVID-19 disease is underway in an Australian laboratory.

At the end of the study, the full analysis of all blood biomarkers, a key outcome of this trial along with safety, will be reconciled with the clinical data including clinical status and co-morbidities and then reported to the market.

## RATIONALE

A major trigger for CRS is thought to be the STING (Stimulator of Interferon Genes) signalling pathway, an important inflammation trigger mechanism that responds to lung tissue damaged by viruses such as coronavirus and influenza virus. In some individuals, the STING response is inappropriately excessive, inflicting even more damage on the body and predisposing to septic shock.

Independent pre-clinical studies (*ASX: 1 April 2020*) have confirmed that idronoxil (the active ingredient in Veyonda) blocks this excessive STING response in what appears to be a comprehensive way, raising the prospect of successfully dampening down CRS in at-risk patients, and importantly,



potentially blocking the release into the blood of multiple pro-inflammatory factors leading to blood clotting and major organ failure.

### -ENDS-

Graham Kelly, CEO and Managing Director of Noxopharm, has approved the release of this document to the market on behalf of the Board of Directors.

#### **About Noxopharm**

Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX) is an Australian clinical-stage drug development company focused on the treatment of cancer and septic shock.

Veyonda<sup>®</sup> is the Company's first pipe-line drug candidate currently in Phase 2 clinical trialling. Veyonda<sup>®</sup> has two main drug actions – a moderating effect on the ceramide/sphingosine-1-phosphate balance and inhibition of STING signalling. Activity against the former target contributes to its dual-acting oncotoxic and immuno-oncology functions designed to enhance the effectiveness and safety of standard oncology treatments, i.e., chemotherapies, radiotherapy and immune checkpoint inhibitors. Activity against the latter target provides an anti-inflammatory effect, also contributing to an anti-cancer action, but also potentially blocking septic shock.

Noxopharm also is the major shareholder of US biotechnology company Nyrada Inc (ASX:NYR).

To learn more, please visit: noxopharm.com

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#### **Forward Looking Statements**

This announcement may contain forward-looking statements. You can identify these statements by the fact they use words such as "aim", "anticipate", "assume", "believe", "continue", "could", "estimate", "expect", "intend", "may", "plan", "predict", "project", "plan", "should", "target", "will" or "would" or the negative of such terms or other similar expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on estimates, projections and assumptions made by Noxopharm about circumstances and events that have not yet taken place. Although Noxopharm believes the forward-looking statements to be reasonable, they are not certain. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that are in some cases beyond the Company's control (including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic) that could cause the actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statement.