



## Fast-tracking of cancer program via novel animal model

### Highlights

- **Highly advanced animal model provides unique advantage**
- **Overcomes traditional challenges in cancer research**
- **Promising data further validates cancer drug potential**

**Sydney, 1 July 2026:** Clinical-stage biotech company **Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX)** is pleased to announce the creation of a highly advanced animal model designed to accelerate its immuno-oncology program.

This gives the company a unique advantage in this area of cancer research, where developing animal models that accurately reflect human biology has been a longstanding challenge due to well-recognised differences between the human and animal immune systems.

The particular challenge is that Toll-like receptor 8 (TLR8), Noxopharm's key innate immune system target for its cancer program, does not play an active role in the immune system of mice. This places it among the most difficult targets to examine in these models, making it a recognised global barrier in TLR8 drug development until now.

The new model was developed in close collaboration with Hudson Institute of Medical Research, Noxopharm's strategic partner, and is believed to be the most human-relevant TLR8 model currently available anywhere in the world.

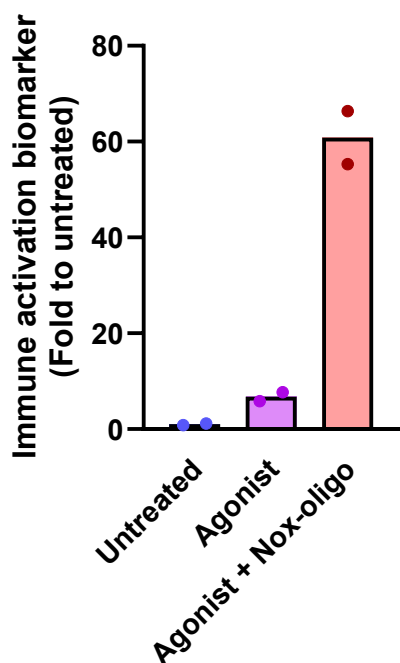
Closely replicating some key features of human TLR8 biology absent in earlier models, the new model not only incorporates the human TLR8 receptor, but also reproduces where and how human TLR8 is active in the body, enabling more accurate evaluation of TLR8-targeted therapeutics.

Building on [recent encouraging data](#), Noxopharm will now use this important breakthrough to establish advanced cancer models to evaluate its promising TLR8 drug leads, leveraging the immune system against cancer while increasing the probability of successful outcomes.

To demonstrate the model's potential, Noxopharm validated it in *ex vivo* studies using a commercially available TLR8 agonist to show successful induction of immune activation.

Strikingly, Noxopharm's TLR8-potentiating oligonucleotide was able to further amplify this signal 11-fold.

**Figure 1 – Validation of a novel human-relevant TLR8 *in vivo* model demonstrates amplification of TLR8 agonism by a Sofra oligonucleotide**



A 6-fold increase in the TLR8-driven immune response was observed when immune cells isolated from human-relevant TLR8 mice were treated with a TLR8 agonist. Addition of a TLR8-potentiating oligonucleotide further amplified the immune response by 11-fold, achieving a 66-fold increase in TLR8 activation compared to the untreated.

*Immune activation biomarker: Level of an immune activation biomarker was measured and normalized to the untreated group; TLR8 agonist, TL8-506; Nox-oligo: a TLR8-potentiating oligonucleotide.*

Noxopharm CEO Dr Olivier Laczka said: “Our strategy here is to maximise our potential for successful cancer drug development by improving how we conduct these proof-of-concept preclinical studies. This new model changes the game because it is much closer to human biology, which will enable us to be more accurate and significantly accelerate our research.

“Our ambition is to build a truly disruptive immuno-oncology program based on our breakthrough discovery of novel natural immune regulators in the body. Across all of our programs we are operating at the very core of the immune system, and believe our approach has genuine potential to leverage its natural ability to fight against this devastating disease.”

**-ENDS-**

### **About the Sofra technology platform**

Developed from a [breakthrough discovery](#) in innate immunology, the Sofra technology platform represents a revolutionary approach to drug design by translating a new understanding of innate biology into targeted therapeutics that enable precision control of disease-relevant signalling.

Sofra is based on the use of synthetic nucleic acids, known as oligonucleotides, to mimic natural regulators of the body’s defence system.

This novel approach enables selective and modular tuning of immune sensors, reducing or stimulating their associated biological responses to mitigate a broad range of diseases and enhance RNA-based therapies and emerging therapeutic technologies.



[Sofra](#) is focused on inflammatory and autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and diabetes, as well as immuno-oncology for cancer treatment. The global autoimmune disease therapeutics market was worth US\$163.2 billion in 2024 and is expected to reach US\$219.6 billion by 2035, while the worldwide immuno-oncology market was US\$43 billion in 2023 and is projected to hit US\$284 billion by 2033.

Further information and animations: [SOF-SKN](#) / [SOF-VAC](#)

## About Noxopharm

Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX) is a clinical-stage Australian biotech company discovering and developing novel treatments for cancer and inflammation, including a pioneering technology to improve the safety profile of a wide range of mRNA medicines.

The company utilises specialist in-house capabilities and strategic partnerships with leading researchers to build a growing pipeline of new proprietary drugs based on two technology platforms – Sofra™ (inflammation, autoimmunity, mRNA drug enhancement, and oncology) and Chroma™ (oncology).

To learn more, please visit: [noxopharm.com](http://noxopharm.com)

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*Noxopharm CEO Dr Olivier Laczka has approved the release of this document to the market on behalf of the Board of Directors.*

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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.