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**ASX: NOX**

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## Noxopharm and Monash University Collaboration Receives Federal Grant

- **Identification of advanced form of idronoxil**
- **Study in support of marketing application for NOX66**
- **Dosage form specific for urogenital cancers in women**

**Sydney, 27 March 2017:** A contract research project being conducted by Monash University for Noxopharm has been awarded \$50,000 by the Australian Government Entrepreneurs' Programme under its Innovation Connections Grant Funding scheme.

The collaboration with Monash University's Institute of Pharmaceutical Science involves separate programs with two main objectives.

**Objective 1.** To go beyond NOX66 and to develop delivery formulations of idronoxil for specific cancer indications. The first formulation being looked at involves the treatment of cancers involving the pelvic cavity of women. The rationale is to deliver idronoxil in a way that maximises the ability of the drug to track the spread of the cancer in the pelvic cavity.

Graham Kelly said, "NOX66 remains the Company's frontline oncology drug for most forms of cancer. But our technology platforms mean that we are in a position to customise how we deliver the drug for specific cancer situations, starting with cancers involving the female pelvis. NOX66 is quite capable of delivering idronoxil around the body, including to the pelvic organs, but if we can deliver idronoxil in a way that ensures that it concentrates where it is needed the most, then that is a goal worth pursuing. Getting the drug to concentrate in the pelvic organs offers the prospect of making chemotherapy and radiotherapy just that much more effective for urogenital cancers. This would be a novel approach, made possible because of our unique delivery technology platform."

**Objective 2.** To characterise the active form that idronoxil occurs in the body when delivered by NOX66. This form (idronoxil-C) displays unique and advanced behaviour that the Company believes accounts for its valuable drug-like properties, including delivering idronoxil across the blood-brain barrier.

Graham Kelly, Noxopharm CEO, said, "While the aim of our current clinical studies is to prove that NOX66 works, this part of the Monash study program is designed to show why it works. This is called pharmacodynamics and is going to be important new

intellectual property that will underpin the Company's eventual submission for marketing approval for NOX66 or for any other dosage form including the previously-mentioned form for the treatment of urogenital cancers."

Noxopharm has developed the NOX66 delivery technology as a means of preserving the activity of idronoxil in the body, something that Noxopharm believes has been lacking in the past, blocking the successful use of idronoxil in humans. Animal studies conducted by Noxopharm have confirmed that apart from protecting the idronoxil from inactivation, NOX66 also results in idronoxil being present in the body in a form (idronoxil-C) that behaves completely differently to idronoxil delivered by the oral and intravenous dosage forms that have been the means of delivery to both animals and humans in the past. Idronoxil-C also is believed to be responsible for allowing the drug to cross the blood-brain barrier, resulting in high levels of idronoxil within the brain.

#### **About Innovations Connections Scheme**

Innovation Connections is one of four elements offered under the Australian Government's Entrepreneurs' Programme and is open to companies conducting R&D in association with a Publicly Funded Research Organisation.

#### **About idronoxil**

Idronoxil is an experimental anti-cancer drug currently undergoing clinical development. Idronoxil works by cancelling mechanisms (such as PARP1/Akt/PI3K) in cancer cells that allow those cells to resist the killing effects of chemotherapies and radiotherapy. Idronoxil targets an external NADH oxidase, ENOX 2, responsible for maintaining the transmembrane electron potential (TMEP) in the plasma membrane. Inhibition of this enzyme causes loss of TMEP and disruption of key downstream pro-survival mechanisms including PARP1/Akt/PI3 kinase. ENOX2 is an oncogene whose expression is restricted to cancer cells.

Idronoxil is undergoing clinical studies in the NOX66 dosage form, with the objective of making existing chemotherapies and radiotherapies work far more effectively and safely than is the case currently.

#### **About NOX66**

NOX66 is an innovative dosage formulation of the experimental anti-cancer drug, idronoxil, developed specifically to protect idronoxil from being inactivated in the human body by Phase 2 metabolism. The purpose is to maximize the amount of idronoxil remaining in an active form rather than as inactive Phase 2 metabolites.

#### **About Noxopharm**

Noxopharm is an Australian drug development company with offices in Sydney and Melbourne. The Company has a primary focus on the development of drugs to address the problem of drug-resistance in cancer cells, the major hurdle facing improved survival prospects for cancer patients. NOX66 is the first pipeline product, with later generation drug candidates under development.

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#### **Forward Looking Statements**

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