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ASIA EDITION

Australia's Telix spins off Rhine Pharma to expand global access to radiopharmaceuticals

October 23, 2024 | News

Rhine Pharma formed following a collaboration between Telix and Heidelberg University Hospital



Australia-based Telix Pharmaceuticals has announced the spin-off of Rhine Pharma, which has the mission of expanding global access to innovative radiopharmaceuticals for cancer imaging and treatment using two generator-produced isotopes, technetium-99m (^{99m}Tc) and rhenium-188 (^{188}Re).

Rhine Pharma was formed following a collaboration between Telix and Heidelberg University Hospital (UKHD), which aimed to develop a PSMA-targeting small molecule that could be labelled with either ^{99m}Tc for SPECT imaging, or ^{188}Re for radioligand therapy.

The collaboration successfully created a potential next-generation theranostic compound, RHN001, which Rhine Pharma is now advancing into a novel Phase I/IIa theranostic clinical study (the '*RHINO Trial*'), exploring the safety profile and efficacy of both ^{99m}Tc-RHN001 and ^{188}Re-RHN001 in patients with advanced prostate cancer.

Because ^{99m}Tc and ^{188}Re can each be produced using on-site generators, they enable a highly-differentiated solution for regions with limited radiopharmaceutical manufacturing infrastructure or dispersed populations. ^{99m}Tc enables imaging of patients with widely available SPECT scanners, while ^{188}Re has demonstrated potential as a therapeutic isotope, thanks to its high-energy beta emission that maximises damage to tumour cells. Its short half-life (16.9 hours) also has the potential to simplify patient workflows in busy treatment centres with high patient demand or limited nuclear waste management capabilities.