

Bionomics, CTx advance in growth factor research

17 May 2013 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Singapore: Bionomics joint program with the Australian Partner consortium Co-operative Research Centre for Cancer Therapeutics (CTx) has reached a proof of concept milestone in the discovery and preclinical evaluation of inhibitors of vascular growth factor receptor 3 (VEGFR3). Bionomics has been a key commercial and research partner with CTx since 2007.

CTx-0357927, a compound from the collaborative program, has suppressed cancer progression as indicated by tumour growth inhibition and number of identified metastases in an animal model of melanoma. This model of human melanoma forms primary melanoma lesions that metastasize to the regional lymph nodes and enables the evaluation of a compound's ability to suppress both primary tumour growth and lymph node metastasis.

The activation of VEGFR3 is closely linked to the development of lymphatic vessels. Lymphatic vessels are important for the metastasis of cancer as they act as a conduit for tumour cells that spread to distant sites around the body.

CEO and MD of Bionomics, Dr Deborah Rathjen, said that, "VEGFR3 inhibitors such as CTx-0357927 have potential in the treatment of melanoma and in breast cancer. It is pleasing to reach this milestone and to see this encouraging data from an animal model of melanoma."

Dr Warwick Tong, CEO, CTx, said that, "This program is a great example of how the collaborative research model fostered by the CRC Program combines the expertise from a group of research and commercial partners to produce novel cancer drugs."