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Protagonist, Ironwood expand peptide R&D deal

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Protagonist, Ironwood expand peptide drug discovery collaboration



Singapore: US-based Protagonist Therapeutics and Australia-based Ironwood Pharmaceuticals expanded their research collaboration leveraging Protagonist's proprietary disulfideÃ?Â¢Ã¢â??Â¬Ã?Â•rich peptide (DRP) technology platform. The deal is aimed at providing Ironwood with novel peptides against targets for potential development in therapeutic areas with significant unmet medical needs.

"Our joint effort has made remarkable progress since the collaboration was initiated in January 2011," said Dr Dinesh V Patel, president and chief executive officer, Protagonist. "The expansion of this relationship is a strong validation of Protagonist's DRP technology platform and its ability to identify novel drug candidates for targets and diseases where conventional small molecule or biologic options may not meet existing needs."

Researchers from both companies are working together as part of an integrated team that includes Protagonist scientists funded by Ironwood for the duration of the collaboration period. Ironwood has the right to advance such peptide therapeutic candidates through preclinical and clinical development, and if successfully developed and approved by regulatory authorities, push for commercialization.

Pending the achievement of certain development and commercialization milestones, Ironwood will make certain milestone payments and pay royalties on sales of each product identified using Protagonist's technology.

"We are pleased to expand our relationship with Protagonist as we have been impressed with Protagonist's scientific team, technology and the overall productivity to date of this collaboration," said Dr Todd Milne, vice president of biology at Ironwood. "This joint effort complements our internal capabilities as we seek to discover, develop and commercialize innovative medicines targeting important therapeutic needs."