Earlier in September, Australian Cancer Technology (AustCancer) (ASX:ACU) has signed an agreement† with Germany company RESprotect GmbH to acquire the North America license to RP101, a developmental pancreatic drug that targets at preventing cells from developing resistance to chemotherapy. Phase I/II pilot study has shown some promising results,* indicating that RP101 would be a useful in co-treatment with cytostatic drugs to give a broader range of chemotherapy treatment options, thereby extending survival periods and improving quality of life for the cancer patients.

Commenting on the Phase I/II trials, Prof Rudolf Fahrig said, “… the results from the Phase I/II pilot trials are extremely promising and show particular efficacy in pancreatic cancer patients. This is probably due to the fact that when tested in vitro with tumor cells, RP101 has a major effect in down-regulating the oncogene STAT3, and the DNA-repair gene APEX, which are over-expressed in pancreatic carcinoma.”

AustCancer will be funding a repeat Phase I/II dose-finding study to be carried out by Swiss CRO in Oct/Nov 2004 in Germany, involving 22 pancreatic patients from more than two centers. A pivotal Phase Ib/III trial will commence in US in 2005 after the results from the dose-finding trials is available, and the company is discussing with two leading US cancer centers that are interested in conducting the trials. In the meantime, AustCancer has commenced the regulatory due diligence in the US and expects to lodge a submission with the FDA next year.

Pancreatic Cancer is the 5th leading cause of cancer deaths with mean survival time for locally metastasized pancreatic cancer of 4-6 months with a 2-year survival rate of 10%. There are approximately 20,000 new pancreatic cancer patients in the US each year.

† As part of the agreement, AustCancer will also acquire 10% of the capital of RESprotect GmbH.

*Phase I/II pilot clinical trial conducted in 2003 with 30 German clinics over five selected tumors æ metastasized breast cancer, metastasized ovarian cancer, non small cell lung cancer, small cell lung cancer and metastasized pancreatic cancer æ had demonstrated that RP101 co-treatment could significantly enhances survival time, remission, time to progression and response to chemotherapy. Currently, an enlarged pilot trial with 13 metastasized pancreatic patients is still ongoing.
About Australian Cancer Technology

Listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (code: ACU) Australian Cancer Technology is a broadly based international oncology company developing a portfolio of high quality oncology-related projects that are at various stages of commercialization. Cash generating businesses will provide the funds to exploit the potential of its leading products and to introduce promising pre-clinical and Phase I projects into the development pipeline.

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About RESprotect

RESprotect GmbH is a privately owned biotechnology company located in Dresden Germany. RESprotect is focusing on the inhibition of chemoresistance and the enhancement of chemosensitivity. In contrast to the well-known efforts to circumvent or decrease existing chemoresistance, this basic approach is unrivalled.

Chemogenomics, the approach of RESprotect, focuses on the application of small synthetic molecules, which elicit favorable phenotypic changes. The combination with genomic tools concentrating on specific biological pathways allows a better understanding of the broader effect of the drug. By doing so, it is possible to discover drugs that target the cause of a disease rather than its symptoms. RESprotect’s compounds are given additionally to standard chemotherapy.

Chemotherapy relies upon the induction of apoptosis of tumor cells, which is the main anti-cancer mechanism. One major problem in chemotherapeutic treatment is the induction of chemoresistance, which antagonizes the apoptosis of cancer cells. The chemogenomics approach of RESprotect resulted in the identification of a number of validated targets contributing to the development of chemoresistance by antagonizing apoptosis. RP101, the Company’s first small molecule drug candidate, suppresses the over-expression of apoptosis-antagonizing gene products induced by cytostatic drug treatment.

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AustCancer Expands Shareholder Base

AustCancer has undertaken secondary listing on Xetra exchange, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange electronic trading system. This is part of AustCancer’s strategic move to broaden its shareholder base. The German listing is particularly significant, given AustCancer’s recently announced agreement with the German company RESprotect GmbH to acquire the North American license to the highly promising developmental pancreatic cancer drug, RP101.

Seydler AG Securities and Financial Services has been appointed to act as the local Market Maker and Designated Sponsor for the company’s shares on Xetra.

Dr Roger Aston, AustCancer Chairman said, “AustCancer is now very much an international biotechnology company with business activities in the US, Europe, Asia and Australia and we are keen to also grow our international shareholder base. The Xetra listing gives European investors, particularly those familiar with the German pancreatic drug technology we have recently acquired, the opportunity to participate in the growth opportunities we have available to us.”

New Board Member

Arthur J. Benvenuto, a prominent figure in San Diego biotechnology community, has joined AustCancer as a non-executive director of the company in mid September.

Benvenuto is President of Healthcare Strategies, LLC, a specialist life sciences consultancy. He was formerly Chairman and CEO of Advanced Tissue Sciences, Inc (now part of Smith and Nephew) and prior to that held senior executive positions with Eli Lilly, including President and General Manager of Eli Lilly Canada, Inc.

Benvenuto has served on the Board of the Scripps Research Institute, the California Governor’s Council on Biotechnology, the Board of Overseers for the University of California, San Diego, the Burnham Institute and the San Diego Economic Development Corporation. He has also served as a director of numerous other public and private companies and institutions and currently serves as a director of a private biomedical company and Project HOPE, an international health education foundation.

“The US market is fundamentally important to our aggressive growth strategy and Art Benvenuto’s counsel will be invaluable in assisting us to plot the most productive course forward,” said AustCancer Chairman Dr Roger Aston.

AustCancer’s US activities currently include the revisys supplements and Adjuvantys Inc (formerly Galenica) oncology immune enhancer businesses and the recently acquired North American license to the highly promising pancreatic cancer developmental drug, RP101. AustCancer has also completed a Level 1 ADR program on NASDAQ (code: AUCJY) and plans to seek full NASDAQ listing in the short to medium term. AustCancer Managing Director Paul Hopper will relocate to San Diego in early 2005.
Peplin Pouched US Patent for Anti-Cancer Compounds

The US Patent and Trademark Office has recently granted Peplin Biotech Ltd (ASX: PEP) a patent to protect its development stage products and their potential against all types of cancer. According to PEP’s CEO and MD Michael Aldridge, the patent is advancement in the company’s IP (intellectual property) portfolio. Aldridge believes this would provide market exclusivity for PEP’s bladder cancer and leukemia products (scheduled for human testing this financial year).

To date, PEP has been granted patent for “anti-cancer compounds” in Australia, Singapore and US, and the patent is under processing in Brazil, Canada, China, Hungary, Japan and Europe.

About Peplin

Peplin is focused on the discovery, development and commercialization of prescription pharmaceuticals for the treatment of cancer. Peplin’s strategy is to leverage its pipeline of novel proprietary products through collaborative development and commercialization arrangements with international pharmaceutical companies.

Peplin’s lead product is a clinical stage topical therapy for actinic keratosis and non-melanoma skin cancer. It is the subject of a US$23 million development collaboration and license agreement with Allergan, Inc. of Irvine, California for commercialization in North and South America. Peplin retains rest of world rights for PEP005 Topical and all rights world wide to other cancer applications of PEP005.

Peplin’s earlier stage pipeline is targeted at bladder cancer using PEP005 in an intracavity or intravesical formulation (PEP005 IC) and leukemia (a blood borne cancer) using an intravenous formulation (PEP005 IV). Its new portfolio of EPUFA compounds opens additional potential opportunities in cancer and adds candidates for cardiovascular disease, pain, inflammation and diabetic complications.

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US Government Fund Injection for Biota’s Influenza Research

LANI™ (long-acting neuraminidase inhibitors) Influenza drug, developed by Biota Holdings Limited in collaboration with Sankyo Co Ltd, has been selected by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases* (NIAID) to receive a 3-year research funding worth US$5.6 million. This is part of the US pandemic preparedness strategy and Biodefense Research Program. According to Biota CEO Peter Molloy, “NIH grants of this magnitude to companies outside the US are not common. It is a tribute to Biota’s recognized expertise in the influenza field.”

Biota is designing a wet aerosol (nebulized) formulation of the 2nd generation LANI. The project, to be headed by Dr Jane Ryan, aims at developing a LANI formulation suitable for stockpiling ‡ and designed to protect and treat the population in the event of the emergence of a highly pathogenic strain of influenza virus, such as avian flu.

Current effective flu antivirals require frequent dosing, hence limit the usefulness in the event of pandemic or bioterrorist attack. Biota hopes to develop a potent drug that only requires one dose per week in view of preparation for the pandemic.

† One LANI compound (CS-8958) has advanced through completion of a Phase I human clinical safety study. In that study, the drug was delivered via a dry powder inhaler, which is the form intended for commercial use.

‡ For biodefense applications, however, a nebulised form of the drug is highly suitable, as it would allow for long term storage of the active drug in bulk form, which when required, can be readily prepared in the nebulised form by pharmacists or healthcare professionals, thereby allowing rapid administration to a large population exposed to a bioterror agent or in the event of a pandemic.

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About the National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases
In operation for over 50 years, the NIAID is the lead agency for infectious disease and immunology research at the National Institutes of Health (US). It is also the NIH’s principal institute supporting biodefense research. The NIAID’s biodefense grant initiatives aim to expedite research leading to the prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of emerging infectious diseases caused by potential bioterrorism agents. In August 2004, the US Department of Health & Human Services released its draft Pandemic Influenza Preparedness and Response Plan outlining a coordinated strategy to prepare for, and respond to an influenza pandemic.

About Biota
Biota is a world leading antiviral drug discovery company with its headquarters in Melbourne, Australia. Biota’s first breakthrough was the discovery of zanamivir, subsequently marketed by GlaxoSmithKline as Relenza™. In partnership with Thermo Electron, Biota markets the FLU OIA® diagnostics for the rapid detection of influenza. In partnership with Sankyo, Biota is engaged in the development and commercialization of second generation flu therapies (LANI or long-acting neuraminidase inhibitors). Biota also has active discovery and development programs aimed at new therapies for diseases caused by Human Rhinovirus (common cold), RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus), HIV, and hepatitis C.
NEW LICENSOR FOR RECEPTOR MIMIC TECHNOLOGY

BioMimic Limited is the new entry in the Australian market set up by Imugene Limited (ASX:IMU) and the University of Adelaide (UA) to focus on commercialization of Receptor Mimic Technology (RMT) in human gastrointestinal applications. Targeted human diseases include cholera, rotavirus, travelers' diarrhea (E Coli diarrhea) and antibiotic related diarrhea in hospitalized patients caused by Clostridium difficile.

Essentially, RMT is a biological (non chemical) platform technology against infectious gastrointestinal diseases with multiple potential applications in all species. RMT replaces antibiotics or chemical treatments and is safe, easy to manufacture and has low regulatory approval hurdles. This new generation of biological treatment can be used to control can prevent infectious gastrointestinal diseases, hence potential applications in all animal species, including humans. (visit this site for more info http://www.imugene.com/portfolio/receptor.html)

UA will, upon the satisfaction of certain conditions, grant an exclusive world-wide license to BioMimic to develop and commercialize the RMT in return for 25 percent ownership in BioMimic. The university’s ownership contains anti-dilution rights for the period of 3 years and until BioMimic raises funds over AUD10 million (US$7.33 million) via grants and equity. IMU will also initially own a minimum of 25% equity of BioMimic while the initial financing participants own the remaining shares of the company.

In the latest arrangement, BioMimic will be replacing UA as the “Licensor” of the existing pig RMT previously held by UA, and provides rights over all other animal species to IMU on an option basis. There is no change to the terms of IMU’s RMT pig license or option rights to the RMT applications for all other animal species. Royalties and milestone payments will continue to be payable upon commercialization of products for each animal species, however, these will now be paid to BioMimic instead of UA. Under the agreements, both BioMimic and IMU have agreed to a free flow of information on RMT developments.

In the meantime, IMU has also acquired RMT from UA for the rights to extend the production-boosting pig RMT to other animal species, except humans. Imugene Managing Director, Dr Warwick Lamb said, “This is a substantial gain for Imugene. As receptors for many bacteria and viruses are the same across species, receptor mimics designed for one species may be used in other species without any modification.”

About Imugene

Imugene Limited (ASX: IMU) is an Australian biopharmaceutical company specializing in the development and commercialization of animal health products for production animals (pigs and poultry) and companion (pet) animals. IMU’s products safely prevent disease in animals, reduce or eliminate the use of antibiotics, harmful chemicals and drugs and, in production animals, reduce the level of antibiotic and chemical residue entering the human food chain.

IMU owns the worldwide rights to the Adenoviral Vector Delivery System for pigs and poultry. It is this Delivery System that is used to deliver IMU’s poultry productivity enhancer and the Bird Flu vaccine. Patents have been either granted or are under application in the major pig and poultry markets worldwide.

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Bionomics Limited (ASX:BNO, BN0OA, US OTC:BMICY) has recently granted a license to Athena Diagnostics (specialist in diagnostic testing for neurological disorders in Boston) to market its soon available childhood epilepsy diagnostics — gene-based SMEI (Severe Myoclonic Epilepsy of Infancy) — in North America and Japan. BNO believes this partnership will enhance the value of its SMEI IP.

Statistics reveal that chronic and recurrent epilepsy is about 10 per 1,000 or 1% of the general population, about 2-5% of children will experience febrile convulsion in the first several years of life; and 10% of the these children will develop epilepsy later in life. Early diagnosis could reduce cost of associated with current SMEI diagnosis procedures and enable appropriate strategies which is hoped to reduce high (18%) mortality rate associated with SMEI. Yet there is no genetic test available in the market to help doctors differentiate between SMEI from less serious types of epilepsy.

In the license agreement, BNO will receive upfront fees on signing, milestone payments linked to sales targets and royalty payments on net sales. On the other hand, Athena will receive supports from BNO and collaborators in promoting the kit to clients. Athena has also expressed interest in licensing other epilepsy tests that BNO may develop in the future.

“One of our aims was to bring the SMEI test to market with a partner this year and with Athena, we are on track to achieve this in the world’s largest epilepsy market,” said BNO CEO and MD Dr Deborah Rathjen. “This will not only generate revenue for the Company but is also further validation of our genomics platform. The generation of revenues from diagnostic tests based on Bionomics’ patented gene discoveries will provide a basis for fast-tracking our epilepsy drug discovery program to provide improved treatment strategies for patients with epilepsy.”

To further exert its presence in the US, BNO has extended its research collaborative network to the School of Medicine at Emroy University (Georgia) for the study on genetic variations associated with SMEI. Meanwhile, its US Subsidiary — Bionomics, Inc — has been set up to handle the growing IP matters and to enhance BNO’s access to US research grants. Currently the company is also looking into a strategic partnership with Nanogen, Inc for the development and marketing of gene-based childhood epilepsy diagnostic test as well as research collaboration with Brigham & Women’s Hospital (epilepsy), University of Wisconsin (epilepsy) and Louisiana State University (cancer).

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About SMEI

Severe myoclonic epilepsy of infancy (SMEI) is a serious form of epilepsy that affects a small number of infants in their first two years of life. SMEI seizures are commonly associated with fever, and are indistinguishable from benign fever-associated seizures in the early stages of the disease. SMEI is associated with high rates of mortality (up to 18%) and, in most cases, SMEI patients suffer from developmental delays and other forms of seizures. Bionomics’ SMEI diagnostic test is designed to assist clinicians in making an earlier diagnosis of SMEI and selecting appropriate treatment strategies for SMEI patients.

About Bionomics Limited

Bionomics (ASX:BNO, BNOOA, US OTC:BMICY) is a world leader in genomics, holding patent applications at various stages of prosecution incorporating over 600 genes it has discovered and related utility in specific therapeutic and diagnostic applications. The Company is leveraging that expertise and intellectual property to generate both near term and longer-term revenues. Focusing on central nervous system disorders (particularly epilepsy) and cancer, Bionomics and its collaborative partners are developing diagnostics for the early detection of these conditions (near term revenue) and therapeutics to treat them (longer term revenue). The Company is looking to generate growth both organically and through acquisition.

Bionomics’ drug and diagnostic development is built on two proprietary discovery platforms. IonX, is used to identify genetic targets for potential diagnostics and therapeutics for epilepsy and Angene is used to identify angiogenesis based cancer drug prospects.

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The Emerging China Hospital Industry

There has been a considerable amount of foreign investment over the last decade mounting to US$1.2 billion being channeled into China via hospital collaboration with 130 hospitals from Canada, UK, US and other countries. The investments are mainly targeting at Beijing, Shanghai and other coastal cities. Currently, there are some 2,400 private hospitals in China, constituting to 5% of the total market. This figure is expected to grow for China’s hospital industry with the opening up of China’s medical industry in future.

Out of the 9,000 registered hospitals in Beijing, only 25 or 0.28% is small-scale joint venture by local and foreign capital, only classified as “clinic” rather than “hospital”. The selected few include:

• International Medical Center
  - Established in 1993
  - Partners: Ministry of Health (China) & Hong Kong partner

• Beijing International SOS Clinic
  - Established in 1996
  - Partners: Beijing Red Cross & International SOS Center from Singapore
  - Business Focus: Switching from emergency rescue to providing daily medical care

• Hong Kong International Medical Clinic, Beijing
  - Established in 1993
  - Partners: Ministry of Health (China) & Dr Harry SY Fang (Hong Kong partner)

• Beijing Vista Clinic
  - Established in 2000
  - Partners: Share holding by individuals and investors from local companies

• United Family Hospitals & Clinics
  - Established in 1997
  - Partners: Chinese Academy of Sciences & Chindex International, Inc

• Beijing MJ Health Screening Center
  - Established in 2003
  - Partners: Beijing Health Check-up Center & Taiwan partner
  - US$5 million investment
SK Hospital
- Established in 2003
- Partners: SK Group
- First hospital in China by one of the world top 500 companies
- US$4 million investment

Compared to Beijing, Shanghai has a much smaller hospital industry with only 600 hospitals under its ownership, with 200 partly funded by foreign capital. SK Group also plans to set up its branch in Shanghai soon, following its establishment in Beijing in December 2003. A couple of notable joint ventures are:

• United Family Hospital & Clinics
  - Established in 1997
  - Converted to joint venture in March 2004
  - Partners: Central Hospital of Shanghai Channing District & Chindex International, Inc

• Shanghai International Medical Park
  - Under construction for two state-of-the-art hospitals
  - Partners: Shanghai Municipal Government, Harvard Medical School & Hanover Medical School
  - Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, Johns Hopkins Hospitals and Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania also planning to enter the Park

Though at a much slower pace, Shenzhen only started to have its first foreign funded hospital — Longzhu Hospital — in early 2003. The 500-bed hospital occupies 50,000 m² worth a whooping investment totaling at >US$70 million. Hong Kong partners contributed 70% of the investment. The facility is currently under construction and is expected to be up in three years’ time.

China SFDA has recently approved the clinical research of Adefovir Dipivoxil, a Grade I National New Drug for treating hepatitis B, developed by Fujian Guangshengtang Pharma. Previous clinical data had demonstrated the drug to be safe with low drug resistance.

Adefovir dipivoxil, an acyclic nucleotide analog of adenosine monophosphate, is one of the most effective drug for hepatitis B that inhibits hepatitis B viral DNA polymerase (reverse transcriptase) via substrate competition (deoxyadenosine triphosphate) and can cause DNA chain termination once it is incorporated into the viral DNA.

Currently there are 28 million people in China are infected with hepatitis B while 1.2 billion are carrier. It is believed that adefovir dipivoxil, if successful, would help to lighten the financial burden for hepatitis B sufferers in China.
Tackling Lamivudine Resistant HBV

Hepatitis B (HBV) is a growing health problem, causing both acute and chronic viral infections. It is found that patients, who receive lamivudine treatment, develop drug resistant HBV. It was observed that lamivudine resistant HBV strains are detected in 14-32% of all patients receiving lamivudine treatment, and the proportion increases with the duration of treatment up to 66% after a 4-year treatment course.

To tackle this problem, LG Life Sciences Ltd (KOSPI: 68870) and Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc (Nasdaq: ANDS) have joint efforts in developing LB80380 (ANA380), an active viral compound showing potential activity against HBV, including lamivudine resistant HBV strains.

“Direct antiviral therapies have dramatically enhanced the treatment of HBV due to their improved side effect profile and more convenient oral administration,” said Dr Kleanthis Xanthopoulos, ANA President and CEO. “Future improvements in therapy will depend on increased antiviral potencies at well-tolerated doses, and on a resistance profile that suppresses the emergence of new strains while providing treatment for lamivudine-resistant virus. Our goal is to develop a direct antiviral that combines the potency, tolerability and activity against resistant virus to confer these benefits to patients.”

Oral LB80380 (ANA380), now entering Phase II clinical trial, has been demonstrated in the Phase I/IIa clinical trials to be effective in reducing viral load by 99.9% in chronic carriers. The 12-week Phase II clinical trial is an open label, multi-center, sequential group dose escalation study which has recently completed enrolment of three cohorts. It aims to assess the safety and antiviral activity of LB80380 (ANA380) in chronic HBV patients who are clinically and genetically resistant to lamivudine.

“We expect that LB80380 (ANA380) will be a best-in-class drug in HBV treatment with high effectiveness against lamivudine resistant strains. I believe we can accomplish this goal through our collaboration with Anadys,” said Dr Heung-Joon Yang, LG President and CEO.

Current annual HBV therapy market stands at US$300 million and is expected to hit >US$1 billion by 2009. To date, 350 million chronic sufferers have become HBV carriers, 15-40% will develop serious consequences of infection during their lifetime (e.g. liver cancer, cirrhosis). The mortality rate (HBV or related conditions) stands at 1 million per year (WHO statistics).
About LB80380 (ANA380)

LB80380 (ANA380) is an oral prodrug of LB80317 (ANA317), a nucleotide analog for the treatment of chronic HBV infection. Anadys and LG Life Sciences are jointly developing LB80380 (ANA380) on a global basis. In April, Anadys acquired an exclusive license from LG Life Sciences for the commercialization of ANA380 in North America, Europe, Japan and the rest of the world other than China, Korea, India and countries in Southeast Asia. In May, the companies announced summary results of a Phase I/IIa double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled dose escalation clinical trial of LB80380 (ANA380), which demonstrated that oral administration of LB80380 (ANA380) over four weeks was both well tolerated and reduced HBV viral load by more than 3 log10 units, or 99.9%, in the chronic HBV infected patients treated in the study.

About LG Life Sciences

LG Life Sciences, Ltd, an LG affiliate, is an R&D based biopharmaceutical company based in Seoul, Korea that discovers, develops and commercializes new medicines in anti-infectives, cancer, diabetes and other chronic diseases. In year 2003, LGLS had approximately US$150 million in revenue and 1,000 employees. LGLS aims to become a leading life science company by utilizing its R&D capabilities to develop global brand products such as Factive® (gemifloxacin) and by expanding its marketing presence in key Asian markets.

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About Anadys

Anadys Pharmaceuticals, Inc is a biopharmaceutical company committed to advancing patient care by discovering, developing and commercializing novel small molecule, anti-infective medicines for the treatment of hepatitis C virus (HCV), hepatitis B virus (HBV) and bacterial infections. Anadys is advancing its anti-infective portfolio through the development of its two clinical programs, the isatoribine family of compounds including the oral prodrug ANA975 for the treatment of HCV, and ANA380 for the treatment of HBV. In addition, Anadys’ anti-infective therapeutic platform is designed to advance a strong and continual pipeline of drug candidates into the clinic.

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Solutions to Diabetic Heart Disease

Cardiac enlargement is one of the complications found in diabetic patients due to the defective copper metabolism, and may lead to a more effective intervention in a major cause of death worldwide. Laszarin™, a drug (active small molecule) developed by Protemix Corporation Limited, may have the solutions for this disorder. In brief, Laszarin™ works by removing excess copper from the patients.

Prof Norman Sharpe, (Medical Director of New Zealand Heart Foundation) and Dr John Baker of Protemix had demonstrated that a 6-month treatment course with oral Laszarin™ could significantly reduce the size of the enlarged heart towards normal heart size. The clinical data are published in medical journal Diabetes.

Currently the drug is in its Phase 3 clinical trial. Protemix is submitting its Investigational New Drug Application (IND) to the US FDA. If successful in Phase 3, Laszarin™ will have a potential worldwide market of over two million people with diabetic heart failure.

Prof Norman Sharpe said, “We hear the word breakthrough all too often, but this is a significant finding for diabetes research, which provides insight into the mechanisms of the disease. There is a distinct possibility for intervention and treatment. … This is great news for biotechnology and research in New Zealand. It shows that we can do high quality, international level research in this country. We have the wherewithal, the people and the facilities.”

About Protemix Corporation Limited

Protemix is a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to the discovery, development and commercialization of novel treatments for cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus and other metabolic disorders and diseases.

Protemix has developed an exciting pipeline of diabetes-related drugs, including one compound, Laszarin™, currently undergoing Phase IIb clinical trials and a number of promising pre-clinical drug candidates.

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New Zealand operation of Merck KgaA has recently terminated agency agreement with Biolab Limited in New Zealand, and appointed Bio-Strategy Distribution Limited as one of its two distributors in New Zealand in addition to Global Science & Technology Limited. The distributorship with Bio-Strategy will commence on 1 October.

This decision, according to Selwyn Love, Merck Limited MD, is based on Bio-Strategy’s ability to “give greater focus to our product range, and its more marketing inclined approach to the principal/distributorship arrangement. Bio-Strategy combines leadership in the biotech consulting field with an all round appreciation of marketing, making it an ideal distributor of our more than 120,000 specialist laboratory products, consumables and apparatus.”

Love acknowledges that distributorships are an important link in the distribution chain. They provide focused, one-on-one attention, are a source of information and advice, and offer a range of other services and products.

About Merck & Co, Inc

Merck & Co, Inc is a leading research-driven pharmaceutical products and services company. Merck discovers, develops, manufactures and markets a broad range of innovative products to improve human and animal health, directly and through its joint ventures.

Merck has a major commitment to the New Zealand market, with own operations here since 1949. It holds the country’s largest depository of laboratory reagents, laboratory consumables/equipment and specialty chemicals, offering next day delivery on more than 2000 items.

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