

Sydney, Australia. 19 April, 2018.

ORAL ARSENIC FORMULATION FOR TREATMENT OF ACUTE PROMYELOCYTIC LEUKAEMIA (APL)

Australian pharmaceutical manufacturer Phebra, is pleased to announce its development of an innovative oral arsenic trioxide formulation for the treatment of APL.

APL is a rare subtype of acute myeloid leukaemia (AML), which accounts for only 10% of all AML diagnoses. It is a rare disease, with an incidence rate of less than 100 newly diagnosed cases in Australia each year.¹

Phebra CEO, Dr Eutick, said the Australian pharmaceutical manufacturer had been and continues to be involved in the manufacture and supply of Phenasen[®] (arsenic trioxide) Injection, for over a decade. Having intimate knowledge of the chemistry of arsenic and arsenic compounds and a good understanding of the treatment regimens employed to treat APL, it was clear to Phebra that an oral formulation of arsenic trioxide would be highly beneficial for patients.

“Phebra was the first pharmaceutical company in the world to pursue and achieve registration of the indication of arsenic trioxide injection for APL patients with newly diagnosed disease. We are now pleased to report that we have successfully expanded our scope by providing oral arsenic trioxide to the Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG) for an active clinical trial,” Dr Eutick said today.

“We are working with key opinion leaders and supporting the trial with delivery of multiple strengths of oral arsenic capsules for clinical trial use.”

The Australasian Leukaemia and Lymphoma Group (ALLG) CEO, Delaine Smith said the oral capsules from Phebra are an exciting development and testament to the innovation in new treatment options for blood cancer patients.

“We believe the clinical trial that has been developed by the ALLG will improve the deliverability of treatment and create better lives for patients with this rare type of leukaemia,” Ms Smith said.

Dr Eutick said Phebra is expanding clinical trial testing of the oral arsenic formulation to the U.S. and will continue to update stakeholders.

“We are excited at the drug’s potential in providing people suffering acute promyelocytic leukaemia with an effective treatment delivered in a more convenient manner,” he added.

About Phebra

Phebra is an Australian based specialty pharmaceutical company which develops, manufactures and markets critical medicines in Australia and across the world.

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At Phebra, we create critical medicines that save and improve lives.

¹ Leukaemia Foundation <https://www.leukaemia.org.au/disease-information/leukaemias/acute-promyelocytic-leukaemia/>
Accessed April 2018

About the ALLG:

The ALLG is a not-for-profit clinical trial organisation that sponsors local investigator initiated clinical trials. Membership of the ALLG is approximately 305 clinicians, made up of the Haematologists treating Leukaemia and Lymphoma across Australia and New Zealand. The ALLG plans, designs, conducts, monitors and publishes investigator initiated clinical trials.