

22 January 2019

Eye Co Announces Strategic Alliance with ANU.

Eye Co is very pleased to announce it has signed a Strategic Consultancy Agreement with Clear Vision Research Laboratories at the Australian National University (ANU), The John Curtin School of Medical Research and ANU Medical School. This agreement provides Eye Co access to the state-of-the-art Mouse Model of dry- Age Related Macular Degeneration (d-AMD).

This association will enable Eye Co to continue to evaluate several high potential candidate-drugs indicated for the treatment of d-AMD. There is currently no known treatment for d-AMD. There are two forms of AMD, the dry form afflicting 90% of the patients, and the wet form for which there are already several registered therapies on the market.

ANU's mouse model develops a d-AMD-like lesion, that results from exposure to bright light, and is known to be mediated by the 'complement pathway' of the immune system - as occurs in human disease. The lesion is anatomically and immunologically consistent with the human condition.

As previously announced, Eye Co has commenced a Phase 1B study in humans to evaluate the safety of fludrocortisone acetate in the treatment of d-AMD at the Sydney Retina Clinic. Access to the ANU Mouse Model will allow Eye Co to evaluate additional high potential candidates for this condition for which there are currently no known treatments.

Age-Related Macular Degeneration is the world's leading cause of irreversible blindness. The population afflicted with advanced stages of the disease is estimated to be in the order of 10million and growing at a rate of 11% pa largely driven by an ageing population.

Eye Co's Chief Scientist, Professor Philip Penfold, commented: "Access to the ANU Mouse Model will provide Eye Co with the ability to evaluate a number of further potential therapies to treat this highly prevalent disease."

Head of Clear Vision Research, Dr Riccardo Natoli, commented: "We are very excited to be involved in this research. The scientific and clinical experience of Eye Co combined with the access to world class facilities and researchers at the ANU make for a likely long-term partnership. Combined we have the necessary team to find treatments for the currently untreatable d-AMD."

Evaluation of the first candidate using the ANU mouse model commenced this month.

Your sincerely



Peter Abrahamson FAICD
Managing Director