

Eye Co Granted Significant Patent in the United States of America.

Eye Co is very pleased to announce that the US Patent and Trademark Office has granted Eye Co a Patent relating to its lead compound, **Fludrocortisone Acetate (FA)**.

The granting of this patent, which has a maximum term until 2039, represents further recognition of the significance of **FA** in the treatment of major macular diseases.

The patent recognises the unique ability of **FA** to modulate the activity of both the glucocorticoid and mineralocorticoid receptors in the retina. The clinical significance of this is that, unlike any other steroid, **FA** provides a balance of suppressing inflammation and improving retinal function. This has been observed in published pre-clinical and clinical studies.

This patent covers various highly innovative packaging presentations for **FA**, including as a unit dose format, as a dry powder, in a preservative free suspension and as a **suspension in hemp seed oil**. The use in a **double barrel syringe** is also covered recognising the potential synergy of **FA** when used in combination with other treatments in the management of macular disease.

The United States remains the largest most dynamic pharmaceutical market globally and the granting of this patent provides further impetus in Eye Co's strategy to bring this compound to market.

A Phase 1b safety study, published in the **British Medical Journal** in 2022 demonstrated that **FA** did not exhibit the side effects commonly associated with intravitreal medications such as IOP spikes or cataract formation. As such, Eye Co is in the process of raising funds to undertake two pivotal studies to demonstrate **FA's** effectiveness in humans in the treatment of **Geographic Atrophy** and as rescue therapy in patients with **Diabetic Macular Oedema** who have become unresponsive to anti-VEGF treatment.

Eye Co has applied for patents in key markets for all the high potential indications for **FA** in the treatment of macular diseases. A patent for the use of **FA** in the treatment of **Geographic Atrophy** has already been approved in Australia and approvals in other jurisdictions are expected in coming months. The approval of this patent in the USA represents further recognition of the potential for this technology.

Peter Abrahamson
12 July 2023