



Press Release

Experimentica Ltd. licenses Akimba mouse model for diabetic retinopathy from Lions Eye Institute

Perth, Australia and Kuopio, Finland, 18th December 2014: The Lions Eye Institute (LEI) and Experimentica Ltd., a global ophthalmic contract research organization (CRO) announced today that they have entered into an exclusive license agreement for the Akimba mouse model for diabetic retinopathy for contract research.

The Akimba mouse model was developed by Professor Elizabeth Rakoczy at the Department of Molecular Ophthalmology (DMO) of LEI, Perth, Australia in an effort to accelerate identification of the complex disease processes of diabetic retinopathy and to test novel drug candidates for diabetic retinopathy in a murine model.

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) is the most common diabetic eye disease and a leading cause of blindness in Caucasian adults. Despite advances in the diagnosis and treatment of DR and its associated complications, diabetic retinopathy remains the leading cause of blindness among working-age individuals in developed countries. Therefore, the evaluation of the mechanisms underlying diabetic retinopathy is crucial for the development of novel therapies.

"We are excited to add the Akimba and Kimba mouse models to our diabetic retinopathy portfolio", said Dr. Giedrius Kalesnykas, CEO and Founder, Experimentica Ltd. "The Akimba model will enable our clients to obtain new insights in the pathogenesis of diabetic retinopathy and accelerate drug discovery for this devastating disease."

The license agreement was facilitated by Bio-Link Australia, a life sciences commercialisation company.

About Lions Eye Institute

The Lions Eye Institute (LEI) is a not-for-profit centre of excellence that combines world-class scientific research into the prevention of blindness with the highest level of eye care delivery. The Department of Molecular Ophthalmology (DMO) was founded by Professor Rakoczy in 1989 with the aim of using technological breakthroughs for the treatment of blindness. The Kimba mouse model have been successfully used in preclinical trials for a DMO developed gene therapy based treatment for wet-AMD that reached Phase I/II stage (www.lei.org.au; www.avalanchebiotech.com).

About Experimentica Ltd.

Experimentica Ltd. is a preclinical contract research organization (CRO) dedicated to develop and provide ocular disease models. Experimentica Ltd. is a global company and the largest ophthalmic CRO in Northern Europe, striving to provide scientific excellence by relying entirely on in-house expertise. Experimentica Ltd. is headquartered in Kuopio, Finland with offices in Tampere, Finland and Kansas City, MO, USA. For more information, visit www.experimentica.com.

About Bio-Link

Bio-Link Australia Pty. Ltd. is a life sciences commercialisation company which facilitates partnerships in the biopharma, medical device and diagnostic industries. Bio-Link has offices in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia, and clients including leading Australian and international biotechnology and medical device companies and medical research institutions. For more information, visit www.bio-link.com.

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