

3 January 2020

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**Antisense Therapeutics Limited - Listed Options raise \$5.5 million**

- \$5.5 million raised via the options exercise including underwritten component.
- Funds raised to be used to advance preparations for Phase IIb clinical trial of ATL1102 in DMD.

**Antisense Therapeutics Limited** (ASX: ANP) is pleased to announce that it has received a full Options exercise of \$5.5 million via conversion and underwriting of listed options that expired on 19 December 2019.

The Company wishes to thank all optionholders who converted their options and welcomes the support of major shareholders and new institutional investors and sophisticated clients of Morgans Corporate Limited (Lead Manager and Underwriter to the Options) who participated in the underwriting.

Mark Diamond, CEO of Antisense Therapeutics said: "With additional funding received through options conversion and following successful completion of dosing in all patients in our Phase II clinical trial in DMD, which affirmed the drug's excellent safety profile and positive drug effects on disease progression endpoints at the low dose tested, we are well placed to advance preparations for ATL1102 to move into a potentially pivotal Phase IIb clinical trial."

**For more information please contact:**

**Antisense Therapeutics**

Mark Diamond  
Managing Director  
+61 (0)3 9827 8999  
[www.antisense.com.au](http://www.antisense.com.au)

**Investment Enquiries**

Gennadi Koutchin  
XEC Partners  
[gkoutchin@xecpartners.com.au](mailto:gkoutchin@xecpartners.com.au)  
1300 932 037

Mark Diamond, Managing Director and CEO of Antisense Therapeutics has authorised the release of this announcement to the market.

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**About Antisense Therapeutics Limited** (ASX: ANP) is an Australian publicly listed biopharmaceutical company, developing and commercialising antisense pharmaceuticals for large unmet markets. The products are in-licensed from Ionis Pharmaceuticals Inc. (NASDAQ:IONS), world leaders in antisense drug development and commercialisation. ATL1102 (injection) has successfully completed a Phase II efficacy and safety trial, significantly reducing the number of brain lesions in patients with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis (RRMS). ATL1103 drug designed to block GHR production successfully reduced blood IGF-I levels in Phase II clinical trials in patients with the growth disorder acromegaly. The Company is conducting a Phase II clinical trial of ATL1102 in DMD patients at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne.

**About ATL1102** ATL1102 is an antisense inhibitor of CD49d, a subunit of VLA-4 (Very Late Antigen-4). Antisense inhibition of VLA-4 expression has demonstrated activity in a number of animal models of inflammatory disease including asthma and MS with the MS animal data having been published in a peer reviewed scientific journal. ATL1102 was shown to be highly effective in reducing MS lesions in a Phase IIa clinical trial in RR-MS patients. The ATL1102 Phase IIa clinical data has been published in the medical Journal *Neurology* (Limmroth, V. et al Neurology, 2014; 83(20): 1780-1788).

**About ATL1102 DMD Trial** The Company is undertaking a clinical trial of ATL1102 in patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The open label six-month dosing trial of ATL1102 in nine non-ambulant patients with DMD aged between 10 and 18 years is being conducted at the neuromuscular centre of the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) which operates the largest clinic in the southern hemisphere treating children with DMD. The primary endpoints of the trial relate to the safety and tolerability of ATL1102. The efficacy of ATL1102 will also be assessed in terms of its effects on disease processes and progression (e.g. the upper limb strength and function of the boys). Further details on the trial are available [here](#) on the Australia and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry.

**About DMD** Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) is an X-linked disease that affects 1 in 3600 to 6000 live male births (Bushby *et al*, 2010). DMD occurs as a result of mutations in the dystrophin gene which causes a substantial reduction in or absence of the dystrophin protein. Children with DMD have dystrophin deficient muscles and are susceptible to contraction induced injury to muscle that triggers the immune system which exacerbates muscle damage as summarized in a publication co-authored by the Director of the FDA CDER (Rosenberg *et al*, 2015). Ongoing deterioration in muscle strength affects lower limbs leading to impaired mobility, and also affects upper limbs, leading to further loss of function and self-care ability. The need for wheelchair use can occur in early teenage years for patients on corticosteroids with a mean age of 13, with respiratory, cardiac, cognitive dysfunction also emerging. Patients with a greater number of immune T cells expressing high levels of CD49d have more severe and progressive disease and are wheelchair bound by the age of 10 despite being on corticosteroid treatment (Pinto Mariz *et al*, 2015). With no intervention, the mean age of life is approximately 19 years. The management of the inflammation associated with DMD is currently addressed via the use of corticosteroids, however they are acknowledged as providing insufficient efficacy and are associated with significant side effects. As a consequence, there is an acknowledged high need for new therapeutic approaches for the treatment of inflammation associated with DMD.

Rosenberg AS, Puig M, Nagaraju K, *et al*. Immune-mediated pathology in Duchenne muscular dystrophy. *Sci Transl Med* 2015, 7: 299rv4.

Busby *et al* for the DMD Care Consideration Working Group/ *Diagnosis and management of Duchenne muscular dystrophy, part 1* *Lancet Neurol.* **2010** Jan;9(1):77-93 *and part 2* *Lancet Neurol.* **2010** Feb;9(2):177-89 .

Pinto-Mariz F, Carvalho LR, Araújo AQC, *et al*. CD49d is a disease progression biomarker and a potential target for immunotherapy in Duchenne muscular dystrophy. *Skeletal Muscle* 2015, 5: 45-55