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The Company Announcements Platform

ASX Limited

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## **Prescient Therapeutics Acquires Exclusive Worldwide License for Cancer Biomarker p27**

- *p27 has the potential to be a companion diagnostic for its clinical stage RAS inhibitor candidate, PTX-100*
- *p27 biomarker to enable identification of cancer patients likely to respond to PTX-100*
- *Competitive licensing terms, with standard milestones tied to successful product development*

**9 February 2015, Melbourne, Australia:** Prescient Therapeutics Limited (ASX:PTX), a clinical stage oncology company, announced that it has further strengthened its oncology portfolio by acquiring the exclusive worldwide intellectual property rights to a novel predictive cancer biomarker known as p27 from the Moffitt Cancer Center in the United States. Prescient plans to use the p27 biomarker as a “companion diagnostic” for its clinical stage RAS inhibitor candidate PTX-100 (formerly known as GGTI-2418). Under the terms of the license agreement, Prescient will pay an upfront cash payment and annual payments to Moffitt, as well as undisclosed lump sum payments on achievement of key clinical and commercial milestones.

By licensing this predictive cancer biomarker, Prescient has the potential to identify those cancer patients most likely to benefit from its novel drug PTX-100. Patients with low levels of p27 are more likely to respond to PTX-100. Having completed a phase 1 safety study, PTX 100 is moving into Phase 1b/2 clinical trials as a potential new therapy for breast cancer and multiple myeloma. PTX-100 holds promise as a chemotherapy drug for other cancers such as prostate and pancreatic.

Dr. Robert Crombie, Managing Director of Prescient Therapeutics, said, “This latest acquisition substantially bolsters our clinical and commercial agenda, with the p27 biomarker enabling the potential for improved cancer treatments that are tailored to individual patients. The most valuable biomarkers are those that can reliably indicate treatment response. These are 'predictive' markers and all data to date strongly suggests that p27 falls into this category. The p27 biomarker will improve the predictability of the drug development process for PTX-100, by identifying which cancer patients are most likely to respond to our clinical stage candidate.

In the long term, we hope this biomarker will be the companion diagnostic used by clinicians to pre-select patients who will best respond to our novel PTX-100 drug therapy. "Companion diagnostics have the ability to predict which patients will respond to a certain therapy, allowing patient selection during enrollment and thus increasing the probability of clinical success. Accordingly, companion diagnostics are central to the rapidly growing field of personalised medicine. Many of the world's top selling cancer drugs are accompanied by their own companion diagnostics. Medical experts globally now acknowledge that the successful development and use of cancer drugs very much depends on matching the right patient to the appropriate drug."

Dr. Crombie continued, "As far as we are aware, Prescient is now the only oncology company on the ASX developing a companion diagnostic to accompany its cancer drug."

#### **How p27 works with PTX-100**

In many cancer types, including breast cancer, p27 is expressed at very low levels with the lower the p27 level, the worse a patient's prognosis.

Prescient's drug PTX-100 is a small molecule that inhibits the RAS pathway that promotes cancer growth. It does this by blocking the enzyme geranylgeranyltransferase I which in turn inhibits a key protein called Rho. In cancer cells, overactive Rho is thought to lower the levels of p27, which in normal cells act as a brake on the cell cycle. In cancer cells PTX-100 can thus inactivate Rho and restore levels of p27 in the nucleus, which in turn can reapply the brake on the cell cycle, halting the growth of the cancer cell.

Dr Crombie added, "By selecting the patients on the basis of low levels of p27, our technology may determine which patients are most likely to benefit from our drug, PTX-100. Establishing reliable predictors of therapeutic response in real time will dramatically enhance the clinician's ability to successfully treat cancers currently deemed intractable. We look forward to fully exploiting the potential value of this highly promising biomarker."



### **About Prescient Therapeutics**

Prescient Therapeutics is a clinical stage oncology company currently engaged in the development of novel products for the treatment of cancer. It holds an exclusive worldwide license to the novel cancer compound PTX-100 (formerly GGTI-2418) for the treatment of multiple myeloma, breast and pancreatic cancer. PTX-100 is expected to enter Phase 1b/2 clinical trials in breast cancer and myeloma in early 2015.

Prescient also owns oncology company AKTivate Therapeutics and its novel PTX-200 (formerly TCN-P) cancer drug. The Company's technology inhibits the highly promising drug target AKT and includes two active clinical trials – a Phase 1b/2 in breast cancer and an active Phase 1b in ovarian cancer. These trials are funded by US government authorities including grants from the Department of Defense and National Cancer Institute.

In addition, the Company has granted a license to major French biotechnology company Transgene for access to its Co-X-Gene™ technology for use in two of Transgene's immunotherapeutic products.

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