



# Biotech Daily

Friday November 13, 2009

*Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies*

## **\* WAIMR WINS \$608,500 GRANT FOR BIOPHARMICA'S HLS5**

### **BIOPHARMICA**

Biopharmica says the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research has won a \$608,500 grant for work on two genes, including the HLS5 tumor suppressor gene. Biopharmica owns the intellectual property to HLS5 as a target.

Biopharmica said the Institute's Prof Peter Klinken and his team were awarded the National Health and Medical Research Council grant for the "characterization of haemopoietic lineage determining genes".

The company said haemopoiesis was the process by which blood cells developed from stem cells, which was dependant upon the appropriate expression of genes at each developmental stage within various lineages.

Biopharmica said the work focused on the HLS5 and MLF1 genes involved in determining lineage commitment and affected the expression of key haemopoietic regulators.

If these genes were aberrantly expressed, leukemias and other blood disorders could develop, the company said.

Biopharmica chairman David Breeze told Biotech Daily the tumor suppressor gene HLS5 would be part of Biopharmica's subsidiary Molecular Discovery Systems to be spun-out prior to an initial public offering on the Australian Securities Exchange early next year. Biopharmica fell half a cent or 2.9 percent to 17 cents.