



Biotech Daily

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Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

BIOPHARMICA

Biopharmica says a poster was presented at the Lorne Cancer Conference entitled 'HLS5/TRIM35 is down-regulated in breast and ovarian tumours and can regulate transactivation by steroid hormone receptors'.

Biopharmica said the research was a joint venture with Western Australian Institute for Medical Research's Dr Louise Winteringham, Robin Scaife, Jean-Philippe Lalonde, Jennifer Beaumont, Rachel Ramsdale (Molecular Discovery Systems) and Prof Peter Klinken

The company has previously said it and the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research screened 70,000 compounds which increased HLS5 levels to block the growth of cancerous cells (BD: Sep 18, 2008).

The abstract from the poster said that "transformation of normal cells into malignant tumor cells depends on progressive acquisition of genetic alterations resulting in either activation of proto-oncogenes or inactivation of tumor suppressor genes".

"Haemopoietic lineage switch 5 (Hls5) is a novel tumor suppressor gene located on chromosome 8p21, a region associated with a number of cancers including the steroid dependant breast and prostate cancers," the poster abstract said.

"The requirement for the steroid hormones estrogen and androgen, respectively, in the development of these cancers is well characterized.

"Our studies have shown Hls5 mRNA is decreased in the majority of breast cancer cell lines and in a number of breast and ovarian tumors compared to normal tissue.

"We have shown that Hls5 is able to inhibit trans-activation by both the estrogen and androgen receptors and can inhibit the activity of estrogen receptor co-activators in vitro.

"These data suggest that Hls5 has a role in down-regulating cellular steroid hormone receptor levels and reduced Hls5 expression may contribute to the increase in steroid hormone receptor levels required for the development and progression of disease."

"Screening of a chemical library to identify compounds that activate the Hls5 promoter has yielded compounds that increase Hls5 mRNA levels," the abstract said.

"These compounds are undergoing secondary screening to determine their effects on estrogen and androgen mediated activation of transcription and cell proliferation," the poster abstract said.

Biopharmica was untraded at 1.8 cents.