Targeted Small Molecule Therapeutics for Cancer and Autoimmune Diseases

- Experienced management team with a deep understanding of molecule design, drug development and partner requirements
- Pipeline of clinical and preclinical, partnered and internal programme assets addressing emerging, high-value disease targets
- Validated track record from clinical-stage $328M licence deal

Company

Sareum is a specialist drug development company delivering targeted small molecule therapeutics to improve the treatment of cancer and autoimmune disease. The Company aims to generates value through licensing its candidates to international pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies at the preclinical or early clinical trials stage.

Sareum is advancing internal programmes focused on distinct dual tyrosine kinase 2 (TYK2) / Janus kinase 1 (JAK1) inhibitors through preclinical development as therapies for autoimmune diseases (SDC-1801) and cancers (SDC-1802). The Company is targeting first human clinical trials in each indication in 2020.

Sareum also has an economic interest in SRA737, a clinical-stage oral, selective Checkpoint kinase 1 (Chk1) inhibitor that targets cancer cell replication and DNA damage repair mechanisms. Preliminary data suggest SRA737 may have broad application in combination with other oncology and immune-oncology drugs in genetically defined patients. SRA737 was discovered and initially developed by scientists at The Institute of Cancer Research in collaboration with Sareum, and with funding from Cancer Research UK. SRA737 was licensed by CRT Pioneer Fund (CPF) to Sierra Oncology, in a $328.5m plus royalties licence deal, with Sareum eligible to receive 27.5% of all payments to CPF under the agreement.

Pipeline

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TYK2/JAK1 Inhibitors

SDC-1801 and SDC-1802 are potent inhibitors of TYK2 and JAK1 kinases and are selective over JAK2 and JAK3 kinases, thus having potential to avoid the side effects associated with currently marketed JAK inhibitors. Both compounds are expected to be dosed orally, once or twice daily. They have good safety profiles in assays to date and the CMC synthesis is straightforward.

TYK2 has been clinically validated in Phase 2 psoriasis studies by BMS and Pfizer.

SDC-1801 - Autoimmune Diseases

SDC-1801 shows compelling activity in disease models of psoriasis and rheumatoid arthritis, and closely related compounds show good activity in models of IBD and lupus.

Figure 1: Oral dosing of SDC-1801 in CIA RA model

Contact: Dr Tim Mitchell, CEO  tim.mitchell@sareum.co.uk, +44 1223 497703

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SDC-1802 - Cancers
SDC-1802 shows compelling activity in disease models of: blood cancers that are dependent on TYK2/STAT signalling (e.g. T-ALL and B-cell lymphoma); solid tumours dependent on TYK2-dependent interleukin signalling (e.g. kidney and colon cancers) and; solid tumours via local immune system modulation (including kidney, colon, pancreatic and skin cancers).

SDC-1802 has no significant effect vs Panc-02 in immuno-deficient mice...

...but gives significant reduction of Panc-02 tumour growth in immune-competent mice.

Chk1 Kinase Inhibitor SRA737
Chk1 is a clinically validated target for cancer therapy, having shown clinical efficacy in multiple cancer types. SRA737 is emerging as the potential class leader, and is currently completing two Phase 2 studies, preliminary results of which were reported at ASCO 2019.

In combination with low-dose gemcitabine (LDG), SRA737 demonstrated <33% tumour shrinkage in 30% of evaluable anogenital cancer patients, and stable disease in a further 30%. Anogenital cancer is a clear unmet medical need, with no second-line therapies available.

As a monotherapy and in combination with LDG, SRA737 was well-tolerated, with the majority of adverse events being mild or moderate. The safety profile was markedly superior to recently discontinued Chk1 inhibitors from Lilly and Genentech.

Preclinical data supports the combination of SRA737 with PARP inhibitors and immune checkpoint blockers in future clinical trials.

SRA373 in combination with LDG and anti-PD-L1 in a SCLC model

Intellectual Property
Patents related to these programmes can be found at www.sareum.com/news/patents-and-publications.

Management
Sareum’s executive team comprises Dr Tim Mitchell, CEO and Dr John Reader, CSO. Between them, they have over 50 years’ drug discovery experience in big pharma, biotech and chemistry service companies. Non-executive directors are Dr Stephen Parker, Dr Mike Owen and Mr Clive Birch, who bring a wealth of corporate finance, research management and corporate governance expertise to the Company.

Commercialisation
Sareum is seeking investment to advance its TYK2/JAK1 programmes into proof-of-concept clinical trials, or licence/collaboration partners to progress one or both of these programmes on an exclusive or co-development basis.

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