

## ASX Announcement

### Race Extends Heart Protection Collaboration with University of Newcastle

- Zantrene has been shown in preclinical studies to protect human heart muscle cells from chemotherapy-induced cell death while synergising with chemotherapy drugs to better kill cancer cells
- Collaborative research program extended and expanded to explore the cardio-protective potential of Zantrene with additional anti-cancer drugs that can damage the heart in both cell culture and animal models
- Led by established and experienced cardio-oncology team at the University of Newcastle [L1 SEP]

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**10 December 2021** – Race Oncology Limited (“Race”) is pleased to announce it has extended and expanded its collaborative cardio-protective research program for Zantrene® (bisantrene dihydrochloride) with eminent cardiotoxicity researchers, Associate Professors Aaron Sverdlov and Doan Ngo, at The University of Newcastle.

This collaboration builds on the initial heart safety preclinical study (ASX announcement: 28 April 2021) and will explore the cardio-protective attributes of Zantrene *in vitro* when used in combination with an expanded panel of anti-cancer drugs known to damage the hearts of cancer patients, as well as to undertake animal studies.

Race revealed an updated Three Pillar Strategy at the 2021 AGM (ASX Announcement: 23 November 2021) building on the recent discovery that Zantrene is able to protect heart muscle cells from both anthracycline and carfilzomib-induced death while also better targeting cancer cells (ASX announcements: 22 November 2021 & 08 December 2021).

This strategically important collaboration will underpin a cardio-protective Phase 2b clinical trial in cancer patients at high risk of anthracycline-induced heart damage, which is expected to begin treating patients in late 2022.

**Chief Scientific Officer, Dr Daniel Tillett said:** *“The success of our collaboration with Associate Professors Aaron Sverdlov and Doan Ngo has been exceptional to date. We all look forward to uncovering all the cardio-protection secrets Zantrene has to reveal.”*

This program will cost \$322K and start immediately, with results to be reported over the coming 12 months.

-ENDS-

## **About Associate Professors Aaron Sverdlov and Doan Ngo**

Associate Professors Sverdlov and Ngo lead the dedicated Australian-first, bench-to-bedside “Cancer and the Heart” clinical and basic research program at the University of Newcastle, Hunter Medical Research Institute, Hunter New England Local Health District and Calvary Mater Newcastle Hospitals. This program incorporates basic mechanistic discovery studies looking at mechanisms of cardiotoxicity, drug discovery studies, translational human research, clinical research and clinical inpatient and outpatient service delivery.

In recognition of this important initiative, A/Prof Aaron Sverdlov was awarded the 2018 Ministerial Award for Rising Stars in Cardiovascular Research. A/Prof Doan Ngo, a co-lead of the program, was awarded a NSW Health EMC Fellowship in Cardio-Oncology (2018-2021) and the highly prestigious National Heart Foundation Future Leader Fellowship (2021-2025) for her cardio-oncology program of work.

Both A/Profs Aaron Sverdlov and Doan Ngo have been invited to establish and co-chair the National Cardio-Oncology Working Group under the auspices of the Australian Cardiovascular Alliance (ACvA). The aim of the group is to coordinate clinical and research activities in the field of Cardio-Oncology in Australia and act as a scientific and advocacy body to improve the quality of cardiovascular care for cancer patients.

Associate Professor Sverdlov has over 50 peer-reviewed publications and 4 book chapters (including chapters on Oxidative Stress in Heart Failure in the textbook “Heart Failure: A Companion to Braunwald’s Heart Disease”) with over 1100 citations and has given more than 80 presentations at international and national meetings. He has received over 30 competitive grants, with >20 in the last 5 years (total >\$2.5M AUD).

Associate Professor Ngo is an academic pharmacist and a successful basic and translational scientist with multiple important contributions in the cardiovascular and metabolic field. She has more than 55 publications, of which over 40 were published in the last 5 years.

## **About Race Oncology (ASX: RAC)**

Race Oncology is an ASX listed precision oncology company with a Phase 2/3 cancer drug called Zantrene®.

Zantrene is a potent inhibitor of the Fatso/Fat mass and obesity associated (FTO) protein. Overexpression of FTO has been shown to be the genetic driver of a diverse range of cancers. Race is exploring the use of Zantrene as a new therapy for melanoma and clear cell renal cell carcinoma, which are both frequent FTO over-expressing cancers.

In breakthrough preclinical research, Race has also discovered that Zantrene protects from anthracycline-induced heart damage, while in tandem acting with anthracyclines and proteasome inhibitors to improve their ability to target breast cancer. Race is evaluating this discovery.



The Company also has compelling clinical data for Zantrene as a chemotherapeutic agent and is in clinical trial in Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML).

Race is pursuing outsized commercial returns for shareholders via its 'Three Pillar' strategy for the clinical development of Zantrene.

Learn more at [www.raceoncology.com](http://www.raceoncology.com)

**Release authorised by:**

Phil Lynch, CEO/MD on behalf  
of the Race Board of Directors  
[phillip.lynch@raceoncology.com](mailto:phillip.lynch@raceoncology.com)

**Media contact:**

Jane Lowe  
+61 411 117 774  
[jane.lowe@irdepartment.com.au](mailto:jane.lowe@irdepartment.com.au)