

Reagent Development Update

Highlights

- **Reagent development program on plan**
- **Two out of three preliminary screening tests for remaining antibodies now complete**
- **Expected to provide Rhythm control over supply, quality and cost of key reagents required for its ColoSTAT™ diagnostic for colorectal cancer**

Rhythm Biosciences ("Rhythm", ASX:RHY), developer of the ColoSTAT™ antibody-based blood test targeting the accurate and early detection of colorectal cancer, is pleased to advise that its reagent development program has continued its positive progress and is on schedule.

A suite of five mixed monoclonal antibody preparations have passed two out of three preliminary screening tests with the final screening test in progress, as conducted under the research contract with CSIRO. Finalisation of this testing is expected by the end of May 2018.

Completion of the three tests triggers cloning of the cells required to produce the antibodies of interest for ColoSTAT™. More detailed testing of these antibodies will follow to identify those most fit for the diagnostic purpose of ColoSTAT™.

Once identified, those antibody-producing cell lines will join those already in hand for the other two target biomarkers Rhythm has secured. This will allow progression to the optimisation of antibody production and purification at a laboratory scale. The standard operating procedures developed therein can then be used to support the development of scalable antibody protocols for production of these reagents by a contract manufacturer.

ColoSTAT™ uses antibodies to measure the levels of several proteins in the blood. The concentrations of these proteins in blood have been shown to vary in the presence or absence of colorectal cancer. When these concentration values are combined using a proprietary algorithm the resultant cancer risk index is compared to a pre-determined threshold value. An index value above the threshold suggests the patient should progress to colonoscopy for a definitive diagnosis and further intervention as indicated. If below, the subject is advised to screen again in two years' time.

"Rhythm's objective in the coming months is to develop our own antibodies and target proteins to give us control of the supply, quality and cost of these key reagents," Lockett said.

"The positive progress to date is essential to underpinning the reliable manufacture of test kits with consistently high diagnostic performance properties, and the results we have achieved in pursuit of this to date have been very pleasing. We remain firmly on track and expect to secure the required reagents and move forward with our lead in vitro diagnostic test."

For further information, please contact:

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About Rhythm Biosciences

Rhythm Biosciences is developing and commercialising Australian medical diagnostics technology for sale across national and international markets.

Rhythm's lead product, ColoSTAT™, is intended to provide the accurate and early detection of colorectal cancer, acting as either a 'first-step' screening test or within the triage of persons with a positive faecal immunochemical test (FIT) or colonoscopy. As well as being of value to those with risk factors associated with colorectal cancer, ColoSTAT™ provides an alternative for those who choose not to or are unable to be assessed using standard screening programs.

Being developed to be an affordable and effective diagnostic, ColoSTAT™ has the potential to play an important role in reducing morbidity, mortality and healthcare costs associated with colorectal cancer.