

PEER REVIEWED PAPER PUBLISHED ON *IN VITRO* PRECLINICAL SAFETY STUDY OF ARG-007

Perth, Australia; 7 JULY 2022 - Argenica Therapeutics Limited (ASX: AGN) (“Argenica” or the “Company”), a biotechnology company developing novel therapeutics to reduce brain tissue death after stroke, is pleased to announce a number of encouraging findings from a peer reviewed published study assessing the safety of ARG-007.

Argenica’s Chief Scientific Officer, Prof Bruno Meloni, and research collaborators at the Perron Institute for Neurological and Translational Sciences, the University of Western Australia, and the University of South Australia have published the study in the Journal of Biochemistry and Biophysics Reports.

The study is titled “*Assessment of the safety of the cationic arginine-rich peptides (CARPs) poly-arginine-18 (R18 and R18D) in ex vivo models of mast cell degranulation and red blood cell hemolysis*”¹.

The study’s findings indicate that Argenica’s novel peptide R18D (ARG-007), over a wide range of concentrations from 0.125 to 16 µM, does not cause any significant degranulation of *ex vivo* derived *in vitro* cultured naïve or IgE-sensitised human mast cells. This means, ARG-007 would therefore be unlikely to induce a mast cell anaphylactoid-mediated reaction (allergic reactions) if administered to patients.

Further, the study also assessed the impact of R18D on red blood cell (RBC) hemolysis (the breakdown or destruction of red blood cells). Similar to other cationic arginine rich peptides, the R18D peptide induced only low levels of RBC hemolysis and only when exposed to the cells without plasma at the highest concentration examined (i.e. 16 µM).

Chief Executive Officer, Dr Liz Dallimore said: “We are delighted that this preclinical research into important safety aspects of ARG-007 has been recognised by the Journal of Biochemistry and Biophysics Reports. It is a testament to the scientific rigour employed by Prof Meloni and his team of collaborators.”

This announcement has been approved for release by the Board of Argenica

For more information please contact: info@argenica.com.au

¹ Adam B. Edwards, Frank L. Mastaglia, Neville W. Knuckey, Kwok-Ho Yip, Bruno Meloni (2022). *Assessment of the safety of the cationic arginine-rich peptides (CARPs) poly-arginine-18 (R18 and R18D) in ex vivo models of mast cell degranulation and red blood cell hemolysis*. Biochemistry and Biophysics Reports, Volume 31. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbrep.2022.101305>.

ABOUT ARGENICA

Argenica (ASX: AGN) is developing novel therapeutics to reduce brain tissue death after stroke and improve patient outcomes. Our lead neuroprotective peptide candidate, ARG-007 has been successfully demonstrated to improve outcomes in pre-clinical stroke models and is in the process of being verified for its safety and toxicity before commencing Phase 1 clinical trials in humans. The aim is for our therapeutic to be administered by first responders to protect brain tissue against damage during a stroke with further potential to enhance recovery once a stroke has taken place.