



ASX Announcement

For immediate release

9 June 2020

CSL to Acquire Biotech Company Vitaeris

CSL Limited (ASX:CSL; USOTC:CSLLY) today announces that it has agreed to exercise its right to acquire Vitaeris Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on the phase III development of a treatment for rejection in solid organ kidney transplant patients.

The companies entered into a strategic partnership in 2017 to expedite the development of this program with the option for CSL to acquire Vitaeris in full.

CSL has now exercised this option and with this acquisition, Vitaeris research assets join CSL842 and CSL964 as part of CSL's portfolio of products in late-stage development to address significant unmet needs in the transplant community.

Vitaeris' lead phase III program is investigating the role that a monoclonal antibody called clazakizumab has in treating a naturally occurring inflammatory gene (interleukin-6 or IL-6), which is the leading cause of long-term rejection in kidney transplant recipients.

"Clazakizumab has been a promising monoclonal antibody in the Transplant therapeutic area since we started working with Vitaeris several years ago," said CSL Executive Vice President and Head of R&D Bill Mezzanotte. "Acquiring Vitaeris and their associate expertise helps us to continue to grow our strategic scientific platform of recombinant proteins and antibodies. We look forward to continuing to advance this treatment candidate as a potential option for people experiencing rejection, an area where current treatment options for transplant recipients are limited, at best."

The cost of acquisition is modest and does not materially change the Company's profit expectation for FY2020.

The terms of agreement include sales based milestones and the Company will incur additional R&D expenses associated with the completion of the phase III clinical trial. In FY2021, these additional expenses are estimated to be between \$30 - 50 million.



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About the Clazakizumab program

Clazakizumab is a potent, monoclonal antibody that binds to and inhibits IL-6, an important driver of the inflammatory response that is known to play a key role in transplant rejection. While advances in transplantation techniques and therapies have markedly improved short-term success rates over the past 15 – 20 years, long-term graft survival remains one of the greatest challenges, with AMR recognized as the most common cause of long-term kidney allograft failure. There are currently no approved treatments for transplant recipients who develop antibody-mediated rejection. Continued progress and ultimately effective solutions for transplant recipients in this area is of high importance to CSL as well as the global transplant community.

Authorised by
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FURTHER INFORMATION

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