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## **Vegenics Completes Capital Raising Circadian Increases its Shareholding to 67%**

- **Circadian subscribes for a further \$8 million of Vegenics shares**
- **Licentia Limited, the commercial arm of the University of Helsinki, subscribes for \$690K of Vegenics shares**
- **Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research, the world's leading cancer research organisation, and Licentia Limited to assign their extensive VEGF-C & VEGF-D patent portfolio to Vegenics**
- **Existing Ludwig licences to third parties for therapeutic drug development and research purposes novated to Vegenics**
- **Patent portfolio re VEGF-C and VEGF-D comprises over 160 granted patents and 500 pending patents worldwide**

Circadian Technologies Limited (ASX: CIR) is pleased to advise that it has subscribed for a further \$8 million in equity in Vegenics Limited, increasing its holding to 67%. Also Licentia Limited, the commercial arm of the University of Helsinki, has subscribed for \$690,000 in equity in Vegenics being its first cash investment in the equity of any company. The additional equity will bring Vegenics' cash resources to \$20 million.

The \$8 million investment by Circadian completes the \$16 million funding that Vegenics is required to achieve under its licensing agreement with the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR) and Licentia Limited. Ownership of the LICR and Licentia patents in respect of VEGF-C and VEGF-D will now be assigned to Vegenics thus providing Vegenics with over 35 different patent families (including over 160 granted patents and more than 500 pending patents worldwide). In addition Vegenics has rights under the CoGenesys Inc (a US domiciled company spun out from Human Genome Sciences Inc) worldwide patent portfolio covering VEGF-C. The CoGenesys rights build on the extensive portfolio covering VEGF-C and VEGF-D and antagonists to these molecules developed by LICR and Licentia over the past 10 years.

The Vegenics asset will now become a substantial part of Circadian's R&D portfolio. Vegenics is initially focussing on developing peptide and antibody antagonists to two forms of VEGF (VEGF-C and VEGF-D) as anti-tumour agents.

VEGF-C and VEGF-D are vascular endothelial growth factors (VEGF). VEGF are a family of proteins that play an important role in promoting the growth of new blood vessels and maintenance of existing blood vessels. The approach of inhibiting VEGF and thus restricting blood and nutrient supply to tumours has potential in the treatment of cancer.

The various licences granted by LICR to its licensees including Ark Therapeutics Group plc (LSE: AKT) and Imclone Systems Inc (NASDAQ: IMCL) will now be novated to Vegenics.

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## **About Circadian Technologies**

Circadian Technologies Limited (ASX: CIR) was listed on the Australian Stock Exchange in 1985 and provides management and funding for the development and commercialisation of Australian biomedical research. It aims to identify high potential scientific research projects from within Australian universities and research institutes, focussing on opportunities that have the potential to address large markets or significant unmet medical needs. Circadian provides funds for further project development, in addition to providing the management expertise that is essential if the project is to meet its goal of commercialisation.

Circadian has shareholdings in Optiscan Imaging Limited, Metabolic Pharmaceuticals Limited and Antisense Therapeutics Limited, companies in which Circadian has been involved in providing management, funding and assistance in their listing. Circadian is also the largest shareholder in Avexa Limited, an Australian pharmaceutical research and development company.

In addition to retaining shareholdings in these companies, Circadian maintains an active research and development program. Its core neurosciences research projects aim to develop a new treatment specifically for Alzheimer's disease, to develop novel compounds based on Paracetamol, to develop a family of new analgesics and to develop compounds with potential for enhancing memory. In addition to its holding in Vegenics, its core cancer project portfolio includes a genomics based technology for identification of the primary source of cancers, a novel technology for identification of cancer markers, and the development of peptide based cancer vaccines. In addition, Circadian has an extensive patent portfolio in an emerging technology in gene testing (known as in situ hybridisation); and a collaboration with Monash University in respect of the development of a method of replacing internal molecular linkages known as disulphide bonds with more stable carbon bonds, in a highly specific fashion.

## **About Vegenics**

Vegenics was formed to develop and commercialise the intellectual property and technology of the global Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research (LICR) and Licentia Limited, the commercial arm of the University of Helsinki, in respect of molecules known as vascular endothelial growth factors (VEGF). Vascular Endothelial Growth Factors are a family of proteins that play an important role in promoting the growth of new blood vessels and maintenance of existing blood vessels. The approach of inhibiting VEGF and thus restricting blood and nutrient supply to tumours has potential in the treatment of cancer. The shareholders in Vegenics are Circadian (67%), LICR (15%) and Licentia (18%).

## **About LICR**

The Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research is a global non-profit organization committed to improving the understanding and control of cancer through integrated laboratory and clinical discovery employing over 800 scientists in branches throughout North and South America, Europe and Australia. Leveraging its worldwide network of investigators and the ability to sponsor and conduct its own clinical trials, LICR is actively engaged in translating its discoveries into applications for human benefit.

## **About Licentia**

Licentia Limited commercialises technologies with IP protection originating from Finnish research institutes and universities, either through licensing or start-up companies. Since its establishment in 2001, Licentia has concluded over 70 licence and related contracts, which have generated income in millions of euros to universities and inventors. The investment of \$690,000 in cash into Vegenics for equity is the first cash investment by Licentia worldwide, however, in the past Licentia has transferred IP to several start-up companies for equity.