

## PRESS RELEASE

# Woke and The University of Western Australia Enter Agreement to Identify Novel LSD Analogues

- Woke Pharmaceuticals and The University of Western Australia enter agreement to discover novel analogues of LSD
- The University of Western Australia has unique chemistry expertise related to the structure of LSD
- Research plan aims to identify patentable molecules with simpler manufacturing, and enhanced properties

**8 June 2022 – Woke Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd** ('Woke' or 'the Company'), a Sydney NSW-based company focused on psychedelics for mental health and The University of Western Australia ('UWA'), today announced that they have signed an agreement to discover novel active analogues of Lysergic Acid Diethylamide (LSD).

LSD is a classic hallucinogen, used recreationally since 1938, and a molecule that has shown meaningful benefit for patients with mental health disorders. It is considered non-addictive with a low potential for abuse, and has been evaluated in numerous controlled studies, that have shown durable remission of psychiatric symptoms for more than 12 months after treatment for disorders such as anxiety, PTSD, and substance abuse. The challenge with LSD is that the molecule is chemically complex and expensive to manufacture.

Under this agreement, the team at UWA, led by Associate Professor Scott Stewart and his research group at UWA's School of Molecular Sciences, will undertake a programme to identify and synthesise a library of novel chemical entities that are structurally similar to LSD. The objective is to discover molecules that maintain or enhance the potency of LSD to bind with key neuroreceptors, minimise side-effects, but are simpler in structure and thus less costly for chemical synthesis.

The first stage of the drug discovery programme with UWA is expected to conclude in April 2023. The molecules will then be pharmacologically optimised for clinical evaluation.

Dr Scott Stewart, Associate Professor at UWA, commented: "LSD was used from the 1950s to the 1970s to achieve behavioural and personality changes, as well as remission of psychiatric symptoms in various disorders. However, the molecule has limitations that can be improved through medicinal chemistry approaches. With Woke Pharmaceuticals, we aim to identify novel analogues with optimal properties as drug candidates."

Mr Nick Woolf, CEO of Woke Pharmaceuticals, said: "We are excited to be collaborating with UWA to discover novel analogues of LSD, that can be used with psychotherapy to treat mental health and other disorders. Dr Stewart and the team at UWA have exceptional and relevant chemistry expertise to achieve the goals of this collaboration. A potent LSD analogue, that is commercially viable to manufacture, has broad potential as a therapeutic approach."

**ENDS**

This announcement was authorised for release by the Directors of Woke Pharmaceuticals.

**For more information, please contact:**



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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Mr Nick Woolf  
CEO  
info@wokeph.com  
+61 417 986 005

### **ABOUT WOKE PHARMACEUTICALS**

**Woke Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd** is an Australian-based company focused on the development and commercialisation of novel psychedelic therapies for the treatment of mental health disorders. The Company's lead candidates are based on synthetic psilocybin for the treatment of depression. Psilocybin is a naturally occurring psychedelic prodrug compound produced by more than 200 species of fungi. Clinical trials have shown its safety and efficacy in the treatment of depression and other disorders. Woke Pharmaceuticals is developing a novel micro-dose formulation for treatment of moderate depression and a novel high-dose formulation with concomitant psychotherapy for treatment of major depression. Both candidates are expected to enter Phase II trials in 2022 with leading investigators in the field of mental health. The Company is also embarking on a novel drug discovery programme to identify pharmacologically optimised analogues of LSD with The University of Western Australia.

For further information, please visit [www.wokeph.com](http://www.wokeph.com).

### **ABOUT THE UNIVERISTY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**The University of Western Australia** (UWA) is one of Australia's leading universities and has an international reputation for excellence in teaching, learning and research. It has almost 24,000 students enrolled across four faculties. A model of broad undergraduate studies followed by postgraduate professional qualifications is designed to produce well-rounded graduates, as well as provide additional entry opportunities for a wider range of students. As Western Australia's premier university, UWA is the highest ranked University in Western Australia (ARWU 2019) and is also a world Top 100 University (ARWU 2019 and QS 2020). As a research-intensive university, it is part of the Group of Eight (a coalition of top research universities in the country) and a foundation member of the Matariki Network of high-quality, research-intensive universities with a particular focus on student experience.