



Woke Enters Clinical Agreement with Curtin University to Evaluate WP002 Psilocybin for Chronic Pain

Highlights

- Woke Pharmaceuticals and Curtin University enter clinical trial agreement for treatment of chronic primary musculoskeletal pain
- Proposed Phase II trial of Woke's WP002 novel psilocybin tablet with psychotherapy in approximately 50 patients
- Dr Rob Schütze, Principal Investigator, is a Clinician Researcher and Clinical Psychologist at Curtin University specialising in the field of pain psychology

16 February 2023 – Woke Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd ('Woke' or 'the Company'), a Sydney NSW-based company focused on psychedelics for mental health, is pleased to announce that it has entered a Clinical Trial Research Agreement with Curtin University (WA) to conduct a Phase II trial of WP002 (psilocybin) with psychotherapy in patients with chronic primary musculoskeletal pain.

Under the Agreement, Dr Rob Schütze, a Research Fellow at Curtin University's School of Allied Health will lead the trial in collaboration with Monash University (VIC), the University of Western Australia, and the George Institute (NSW). Subject to ethics approval, the trial intends to enrol approximately 50 patients to examine safety, tolerability, and efficacy of WP002 in patients suffering from chronic pain.

Psilocybin is a naturally occurring psychedelic pro-drug produced by more than 200 fungi. When used at a high dose in combination with psychotherapy, there is emerging evidence to suggest that the chronic pain experience may be helped using psychedelic therapies. WP002 is a novel tablet formulation of 25mg synthetic psilocybin with enhanced solubility and stability.

Chronic pain conditions are highly prevalent, disabling, and difficult to treat. Chronic low back pain, for example, is the most disabling health condition worldwide. In Australia, around one in five people aged 45 and over are living with persistent, ongoing pain. In 2018, the cost of chronic pain was estimated at \$139 billion in Australia, mostly through reduced quality of life and productivity losses.

The Principal Investigator of the proposed trial, Dr Rob Schütze is a Clinical Psychologist specialising in persistent pain and other chronic health conditions, working clinically across both tertiary hospital and primary care settings. He is a recognised leader in the field of pain psychology and collaborates with a team of leading pain science researchers at Curtin University.

Dr Rob Schütze from Curtin University said: "Initial findings from observational studies suggest that psychedelics can benefit people with chronic pain. The mode of action is likely to be through accelerating psychological and behavioural changes, while potentially having direct effects on pain neurophysiology. This trial aims to explore the effect of Woke's WP002 psilocybin in a randomised controlled trial with targeted pain psychotherapy. It will provide data on its safety, tolerability, and efficacy in patients with chronic primary musculoskeletal pain who have not responded to primary care treatments. If successful, WP002-assisted therapy could offer a new treatment approach for patients with debilitating pain."

Mr Nick Woolf, CEO of Woke Pharmaceuticals, said: "We look forward to commencing this Phase II trial with Curtin University to treat patients with chronic pain. WP002 psilocybin therapy with relevant psychotherapy could offer benefit to these patients, who have limited treatment options, by addressing the psychological component of chronic pain as well as potentially targeting pain pathways. Dr Schütze has extensive knowledge and experience in pain psychology and has established a first-rate team of collaborators at Monash University, UWA and the George Institute."

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

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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, which 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 mental health disorders. Woke Pharmaceuticals is developing two dose forms with rapid release capabilities. The Company is also conducting 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.

ABOUT WP002

WP002 is designed to address the challenges and limitations of oral psilocybin. WP002 is a physically modified form of crystalline psilocybin in a tablet, developed in collaboration with Monash University's Medicines Manufacturing Innovation Centre and manufactured under GMP by IDT Australia. It has the potential to provide faster onset of action, reduce time and resource burden on patients and medical practitioners, and improve stability (shelf life).

ABOUT CURTIN UNIVERSITY

Curtin University is Western Australia's largest university, with close to 60,000 students. In addition to the University's main campus in Perth, Curtin also has a major regional campus in Kalgoorlie, and a campus in Midland, as well as four global campuses in Malaysia, Singapore, Dubai, and Mauritius. Curtin staff and students come from Australia and over 120 other countries around the world, with half our international students studying at Curtin's offshore campuses.

Curtin is ranked in the top one per cent of universities worldwide, with the University placed 9th in Australia according to the [Academic Ranking of World Universities \(ARWU\) 2022](#) and has achieved a QS Five Stars Plus rating, the highest available for a tertiary institution, and one of only five to do so in Australia.

The University has built a reputation around innovation and an entrepreneurial spirit, being at the forefront of many high-profile research projects in astronomy, biosciences, economics, mining, and information technology. It is also recognised globally for its strong connections with industry, and for its commitment to preparing students for the jobs of the future.

For further information, visit curtin.edu.au.