

News

BioPharmica aims to raise \$2.5m

Helen Schuller

13/01/2006 15:19:39

Perth based

BioPharmica (ASX:
BPH) has opened a
share purchase plan
to raise AUD\$2.5
million to fund the
development of its
portfolio of biomedical
research.

"The company is
expecting an active
first quarter in 2006
and will use the
capital raised in the
share plan to fund the
continued
development of our
portfolio projects,"
said BioPharmica
managing director Dr
Sam Gallagher.

Earlier this week
Biopharmica
announced the
completion of its

bacterial genechip trial. The trial was developed in conjunction with Dr Ben Fry and Dr Viraj Perera from Diagnostic Array Systems, a spinout of RMIT University in Melbourne, to validate the accuracy of the genechip for bacterial lung disease typing with a comparison to current detection methods of growing bacterial culture on an agar plate.

"The test is being developed to help diagnose lung disease faster and more effectively. The current method only works to grow cultures 20-30 per cent of the time, before you can even consider the accuracy of identifying the bacteria that do grow," said Gallagher.

The trial involved approximately 500 clinical sputum samples from patients with suspected lung

disease. The company is currently analysing the results of the trial and expects to be in a position to release these results in the very near future. Initial sales are targeted for early 2006 with Diagnostic Array Systems indicating that regulatory approval is not likely to be required in Australia.

Preliminary results released late last year indicated the genechip is showing an accuracy rate of 96 per cent in detecting bacterial species and the project team has successfully attached more than 23 different species of bacteria in the one test.

Funding will also be used for the development of products from the HLS5 gene, in collaboration with the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research. The gene,

discovered by WAIMR
director Prof Peter
Klinken and his team,
is a candidate tumour
suppressor gene,
which allows cancer
cells to grow
uncontrolled when it is
missing or mutated.

Patents are pending
for HLS5 in the United
States, Europe and
Australia.

"In the first half of
2005, we did a pilot
study at Royal Perth
Hospital Campus of
WAIMR," said
BioPharmica director
Charles Murphy. "We
were very pleased
with the results and
the ongoing progress
of that work. Since
that time we have
been working on the
intellectual property
that has been
generated by that pilot
study and subsequent
research from the
team at WAIMR. We
see this as one of our
outstanding projects
and it has exciting
potential.

"We would obviously

like to immediately communicate any breakthrough that we may experience from the HLS5 development program, but our real priority must be to protect the IP that we have been discovering."

BioPharmica is also developing a new method of monitoring the electrical activity of the brain to indicate the effect of drugs in partnership with Cortical Dynamics.

"It's a physiologically based depth of anaesthesia monitor and diagnostic algorithm," Murphy said. "An initial clinical trial has been completed at Royal Melbourne Hospital and BioPharmica and researchers from Swinburne University and Royal Melbourne Hospital are analysing results of the trial which was concluded on September 30."

Lastly, the funding will

also be used in another collaboration between BioPharmica and Swinburne.

"The agreement is to develop a fibre-optic probe to be used in biosensors for diagnostic testing and drug development.

SERS Probe

technology is being developed to enable biosensors to use light as a method to detect and monitor biological and chemical targets on the microscopic tip of an optical fibre. It is in proof-of-concept stage and funding will be used in prototype development. It is a very good example of a commercially driven research project," said Murphy.

Shareholders

registered on January 11 are each being offered up to \$5000 worth of ordinary shares at \$0.18 per share with a full offering 14.3 million shares. The offer

closes on January 31.

At time of writing

BioPharmica shares

were trading at \$0.21,

down 1 cent.

More about [HIS](#),
[RMIT](#), [Royal
Melbourne Hospital](#),
[Royal Perth Hospital](#),
[Swinburne University](#)



Copyright 2007 IDG Communications. ABN 14 001 592 650. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part in any form or medium without express written permission of IDG Communications is prohibited.

IDG Sites: [PC World](#) | [GoodGearGuide](#) | [Australian GamePro](#) | [Computerworld Australia](#) | [CIO Australia](#) | [CSO Online](#) | [LinuxWorld.com.au](#) | [Australian Reseller News](#) | [CIO Executive Council](#)