



Biotech Daily

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Daily news on ASX-listed biotechnology companies

BIOPHARMICA

Biopharmica and the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research have screened 70,000 compounds which increase HLS5 levels to block the growth of cancerous cells. Led by Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) director Prof Peter Klinken, researchers have screened a large collection of drug-like molecules and recently identified a number of compounds which can increase levels of the HLS5 gene.

"This discovery is very encouraging and a great step forward in our quest to create new cancer treatments," Prof Klinken said.

"Because of the role HLS5 plays in keeping cell growth at a normal rate, we expect that these compounds will greatly slow down the growth of cancer cells," Prof Klinken said.

Biopharmica said the HLS5 tumor suppressor gene was reported by Prof Klinken's team in 2004.

The group's research has shown that people who don't have the gene or those who have a mutated or inactive form of the gene are more likely to develop certain types of cancer.

"Our preliminary data reveals that several of these compounds do indeed markedly slow down the growth of human cancer cells," said Prof Klinken.

"Importantly, we also know through computer modeling that nearly all of these compounds have drug-like qualities," he said.

"From here, we take the research to the next phase of laboratory testing with the ultimate hope of investigating if one of these molecules can be used to create a fresh treatment that can slow growth of cancer cells in patients," Prof Klinken said.

Biopharmica was unchanged at 4.5 cents.