Imugene Limited (ASX:IMU) is a clinical stage cancer immuno-oncology company based in Sydney, Australia. Immuno-oncology is an innovative area of research that seeks to help the body’s own immune system fight cancer. Immuno-oncology treatments are at the forefront of cancer innovation with the leading drugs generating over USD $23 billion in 2018. Imugene’s cancer immunotherapies (B-cell peptide vaccines) harness the body’s immune system to generate antibodies against tumors, potentially achieving similar or greater effect than synthetically manufactured monoclonal antibody therapies. Following promising Phase 1 clinical trial results across lead candidate B-cell vaccines, the company is recruiting patients for Phase 2 trials with all clinical research programs fully funded from the company’s existing cash resources.

Imugene currently has 2 therapies (HER-Vaxx and B-Vaxx) in Phase 2 studies with a pipeline of other therapies and combinations undergoing earlier stage development and the company anticipates a number of key clinical and preclinical catalysts in 2019.

HER-Vaxx activates and stimulates the patient’s B-cells to produce antibodies that target only those cancer cells with HER-2 (Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor) overexpressed on their surface. Imugene’s products have the potential to improve upon well-known HER-2 treatments such as Herceptin ($7.1 bn in 2018 sales) and Perjeta ($2.8 bn in 2018 sales).

Similar to HER-Vaxx, B-Vaxx is a B-cell peptide cancer vaccine designed to treat tumors that overexpress the HER-2 receptor, such as gastric and breast cancers.

KEY-Vaxx is a B-cell peptide cancer vaccine designed to treat tumors such as lung cancer by interfering with the PD-1/PD-L1 binding and interaction and produce an anticancer effect similar to Keytruda ($7.2 bn in 2018 sales), Opdivo ($6.7 bn in 2018 sales) and other immune checkpoint inhibitor monoclonal antibodies that are transforming treatment of a range of cancers.

Imugene recently presented a number of its clinical programs at the American Association for Cancer Research (AARC) Annual Meeting. These presentations were delivered by members of the company’s Scientific Advisory Board which consists of world leading oncologists, researchers and developers from esteemed centers including the Mayo Clinic (USA), Medical University of Vienna (Austria), Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre (USA), City of Hope (USA), Queen Mary University (London), Ohio State University (USA) and Vall D’Hebron (Spain). The company’s Managing Director and CEO, Leslie Chong has had over 20 years’ experience in oncology and was the former Senior Clinical Program Lead at Genentech, one of the world’s most successful biotech businesses which sells the bestselling breast cancer drug Herceptin.

With a strong cash balance sheet (cash of USD $17 million as at December, 2018) and fully funded Phase 2 clinical trials underway for key indications, Imugene is very well positioned to build upon its past success and deliver highly anticipated further results moving forward. ℹ️

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The company paid consideration to SNN or its affiliates for this article.