



## **ASX Announcement**

**26 April 2021**

### ***Hexima to present at American Podiatric Medical Association Annual Conference***

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA (26 April 2021): Hexima Limited (ASX:HXL) a clinical stage biotechnology company developing HXP124, a new prescription treatment for onychomycosis, today announces that it has been selected to present clinical data from its Phase I/IIa clinical trial of HXP 124 for the treatment of onychomycosis at the annual meeting of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA) in Aurora, Colorado in July 2021.

The APMA represents an important venue for the presentation of HXP124's potential in onychomycosis. Podiatrists are the specialists who tend to manage most cases of onychomycosis and importantly write 80% of all prescriptions for onychomycosis in the US.<sup>[1]</sup>

"We recently held the first meeting of our Scientific Advisory Board. This Board includes leading US podiatrists, Warren Joseph and Tracy Vlahovic who are both world leaders in infectious disease of the lower extremities" commented Nicole van der Weerden, Hexima's COO. "Presenting at the APMA will provide an opportunity to share our data and further engage with this important group of prescribers as we ensure the development of HXP124 effectively meets the needs of patients with onychomycosis."

#### **About Onychomycosis**

Onychomycosis is a common fungal nail infection in the nail plate and nail bed. Prevalence of onychomycosis has been estimated at between 10% (Japan) and 13.8% (USA).<sup>[2]</sup> Onychomycosis is an infectious disease with significant healthcare burden, it causes pain in approximately 50% of patients and in the US results in close to four doctor's visits annually for treatment.<sup>[3]</sup> Onychomycosis impacts a patient's quality of life with 51% unable to wear the shoes they would prefer and 66% distressed by the appearance of their nail.<sup>[4]</sup> It is important to treat onychomycosis as the fungi in the nail and can be a source of secondary infection in other areas of the body or infect family members and spread to the environment.

Onychomycosis is the most common nail disorder, and the most common skin infection, accounting for 50% of all nail diseases. It is particularly prevalent in older, diabetic and immune compromised populations.<sup>[3]</sup> The global market for treatments for onychomycosis was approximately US\$3.7 billion in 2018.<sup>[5]</sup>

#### **Treatment of Onychomycosis**

Approved prescription therapies for onychomycosis comprise either oral or topical medications. Oral medications are associated with adverse effects such as nausea, taste disturbance, and flatulence. They can also severely impact liver function and so often require liver function monitoring. The clinical and commercial success of topical medications has been constrained by an inability of anti-fungal agents to effectively penetrate the human nail and the lack of sufficient anti-fungal activity when in contact with the target pathogen.<sup>[6]</sup>

#### **Hexima's Approach**

Hexima embraces the significant challenge of new product development for onychomycosis. Hexima has taken a novel approach, building on its many years of groundbreaking research into the evolutionary



tools that plants use naturally to fight fungal infections. The result is HXP124, a new and very different topical treatment for onychomycosis, with a novel and powerful fungicidal mode of action.

Historically, therapies for onychomycosis have generally focused on new forms of the azole class of antifungal agents or improving the topical delivery of systemic antifungal agents. Hexima's technology is a completely novel approach with fundamental differences that address the well-documented limitations of these traditional approaches.

HXP124 penetrates the nail more effectively than existing topical treatments and so can more readily target the fungal cells which proliferate in the nail bed. It is also more effective at rapidly killing fungal cells on contact. Together, these properties mean that HXP124 has the potential to resolve the fungal infection more quickly, leading to faster and more complete clearing of the infected nail area. Consequently, HXP124 offers the promise to capture significant value in a large and poorly served market.

#### **About Hexima**

Hexima (ASX:HLX) is a clinical stage, anti-infectives focused biotechnology company engaged in the research and development of defensin peptides for applications as human therapeutics. Our lead product candidate, HXP124 applied in a topical formulation, is a potential new prescription treatment for toenail fungal infections (or onychomycosis). Hexima is currently conducting an Australian phase IIb clinical trial testing HXP124 for the treatment of onychomycosis. Hexima holds granted, long-life patents protecting HXP124 in major markets globally. For additional information about Hexima please visit [www.hexima.com.au](http://www.hexima.com.au). You can also find us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

#### **Notes:**

1. ClearView Healthcare Partners proprietary market research, 2019
2. Tatchibana et al., Journal of Fungi, 2017
3. Joseph et al, Supplement to Podiatry Today, 2013
4. Milobratovic et al., Mycoses, 2013
5. Persistence Market Research 2018
6. Wang et al., Onychomycosis: Diagnosis and Effective Management, 2018

**This announcement is authorised for release to ASX by Michael Aldridge, Managing Director & CEO**

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