

# Targeting the Tumour Microenvironment:

Redefined

AVA6000 Update

13th December 2023

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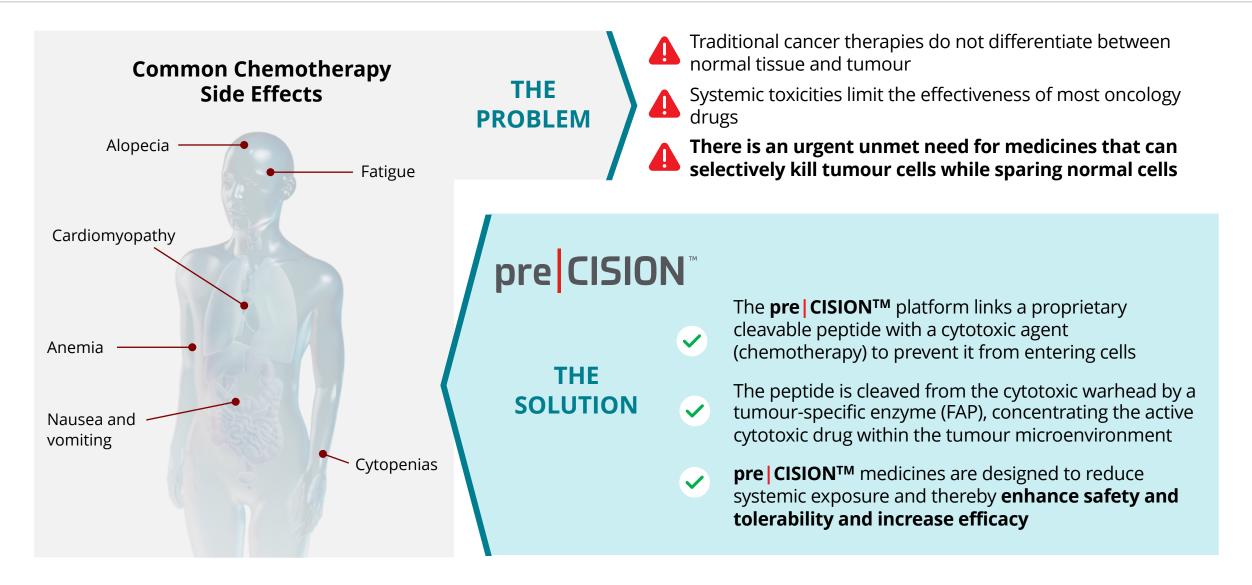
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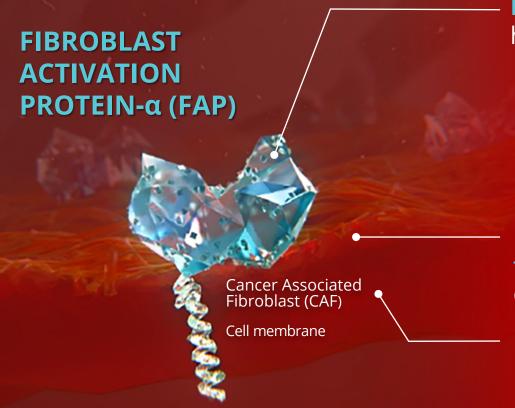
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## **pre CISION**<sup>™</sup>: Targeting Cancer Therapies to the Tumour Microenvironment



## Leveraging FAP to Effectively Target the Tumour Microenvironment (TME)



**FAP is an enzyme** selectively expressed in human cancers<sup>1</sup>

Member of the **DASH family of serine proteases**<sup>2,3</sup>, **which are not specific to tumour tissue** which includes:

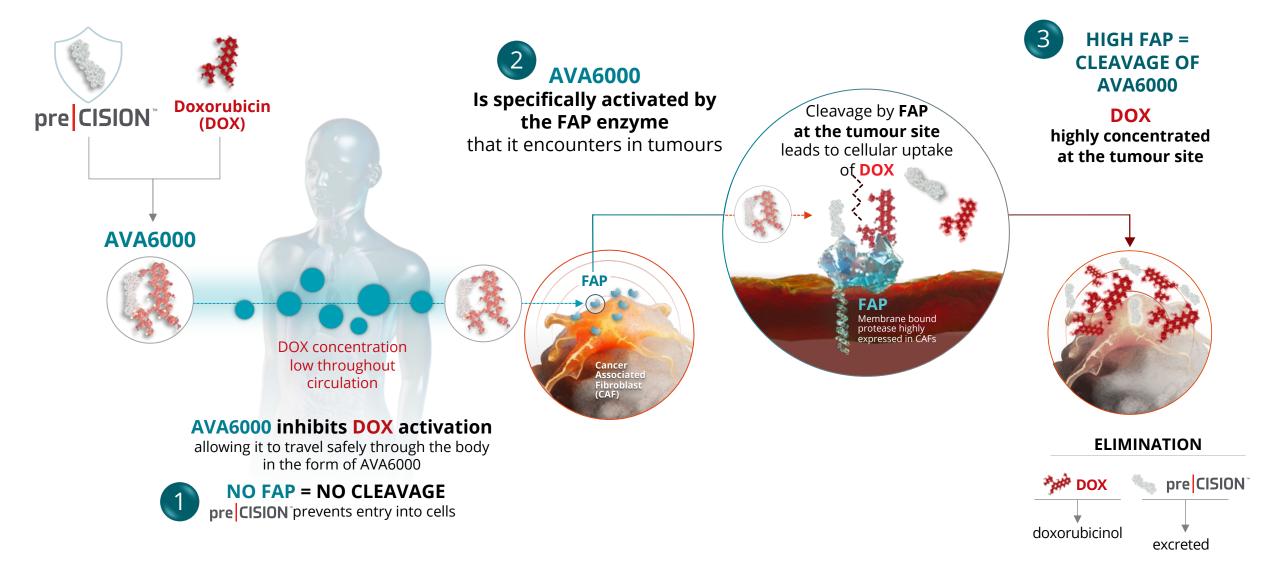


FAP is found on the cell surface of **cancer-associated fibroblasts (CAF) in the TME** and on the tumour cell membrane in some cases

Over-expression of FAP in the TME is associated with **poor prognosis**: increased metastasis and lower overall survival<sup>3</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Gorrell MD, et al. Structure and function in dipeptidyl peptidase IV and related proteins. Adv Exp Med Biol. 2006;575:45-54. Epub 2006/05/17. doi: 10.1007/0-387-32824-6\_5 | <sup>2</sup>.Rosenblum JS, et al.. Prolyl peptidases: a serine protease subfamily with high potential for drug discovery. Current opinion in chemical biology. 2003;7(4):496-504.. doi: S136759310300084X [pii]. | <sup>3</sup>. Liu F, et al. Fibroblast activation protein overexpression and clinical implications in solid tumours: a meta-analysis. PLoS One. 2015;10(3):e0116683. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0116683. PMID: 25775399; PMCID:

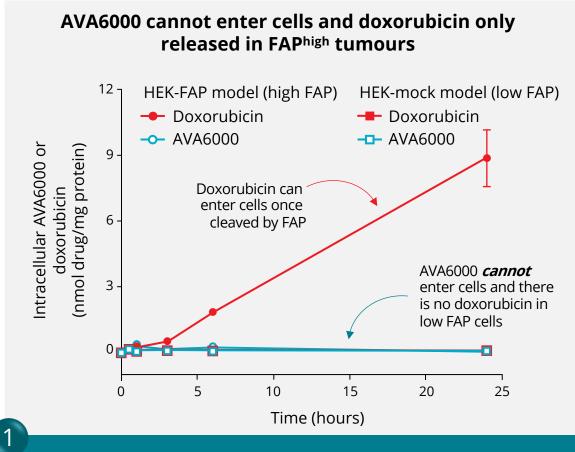
## AVA6000 Mechanism of Action Releases Doxorubicin in the TME by FAP-Specific Cleavage





AVA6000: Preclinical Data

## Selective Cleavage of AVA6000 by FAP in the TME Leads to Cellular Uptake of Doxorubicin



#### Intact AVA6000 cannot enter cells:

Normal tissues (FAP-negative) will not have cleavage of AVA6000 to release doxorubicin, thus very limited <u>exposure</u>

https://doi.org/10.3109/1061186X.2010.511225 and internal data

#### pre | CISION™ achieves high specificity for FAP cleavage where others have failed AVA6000 **FAP** 600 pyridine-4-carbonyl-**D-Ala-Pro**-doxorubicin **PREP** pre | CISION™ is only Doxorubicin is only released cleaved by FAP, not DPP4 From AVA6000 by FAP other enzymes CGP-DOX FAP carboxybenzyl-Gly-Pro-doxorubicin<sup>1</sup> **PREP** 570 Peptide is cleaved by DPP4 both FAP and PREP 200 400 600 800 Doxorubicin concentration

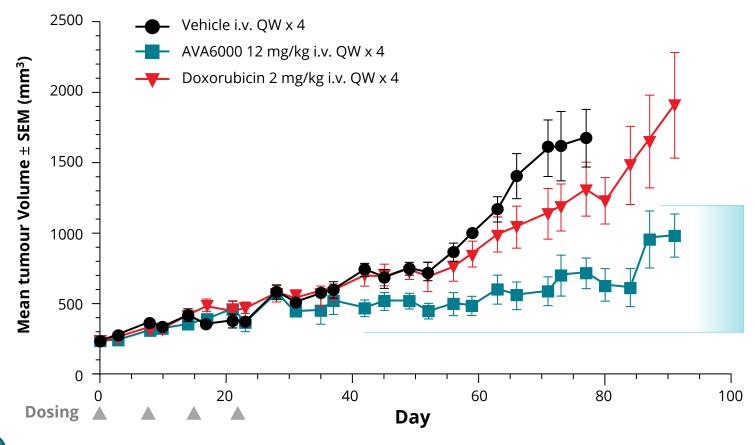
pre | CISION<sup>TM</sup> peptide is **exquisitely selective** for FAP:

PREP is widely distributed in normal human tissues, whereas FAP is tumour-specific resulting in TME-specific release of doxorubicin

1. Huang S, Fang R, Xu J, Qiu S, Zhang H, Du J, Cai S. Evaluation of the tumor targeting of a FAPα-based doxorubicin prodrug. J Drug Target. 2011 Aug;19(7):487-96. doi: 10.3109/1061186X.2010.511225. Epub 2011 Feb 2. PMID: 21284542.



## AVA6000 Demonstrates Efficacy in FAPhigh Dox-resistant PDX Osteosarcoma Model



#### **AVA6000** in patient-derived xenograft (PDX)

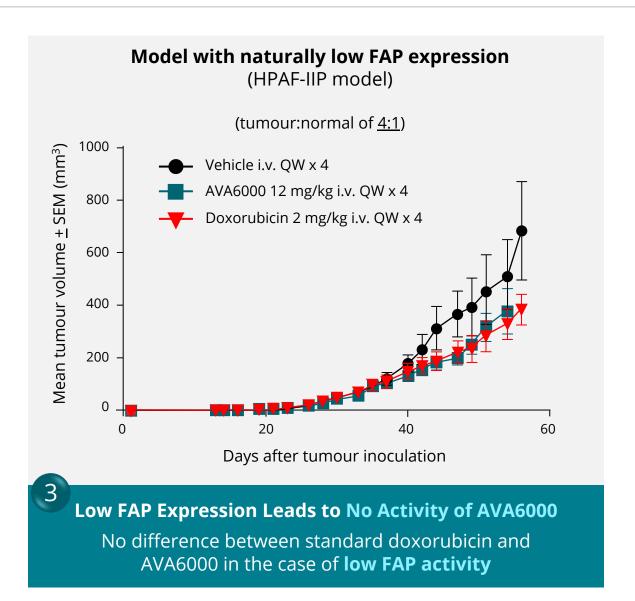
METHOD: Test the activity of AVA6000 in a patient-derived sarcoma xenograft with high FAP level (determined by RNAseq assay)

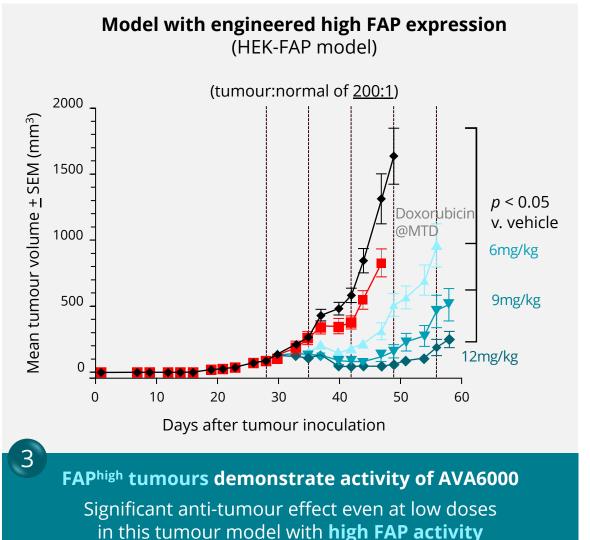
Prolonged tumour control in high FAP tumour

Disease control observed in a FAPhigh PDX for **more than two months** following a short 4-dose regimen of AVA6000



## Tumours with High FAP Expression Demonstrate Stronger Response with AVA6000

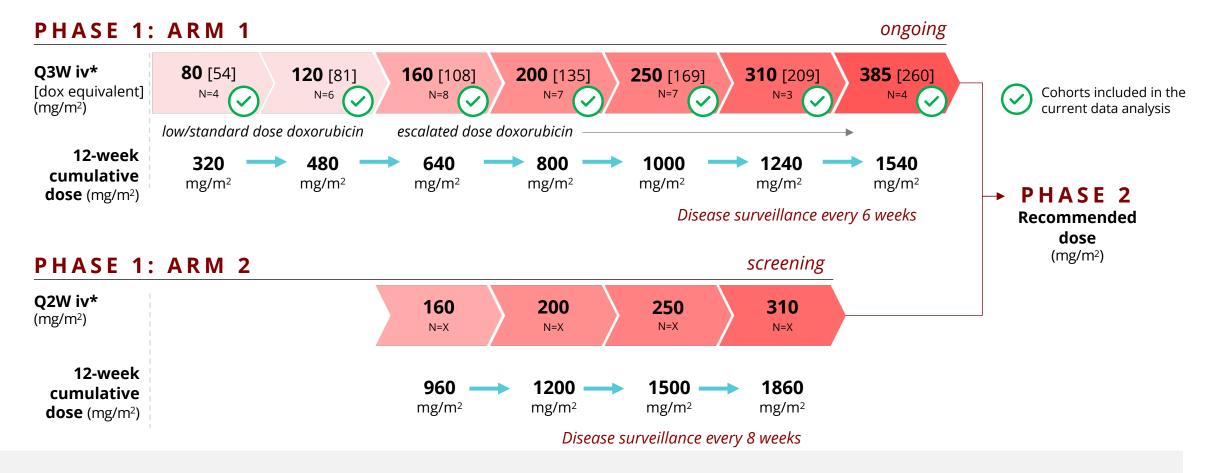






AVA6000: Phase 1 Clinical Trial

## AVA6000 Phase 1 Trial Design



# PHASE 1 POPULATION

- Patients with a diagnosis of known FAPhigh cancers, including sarcoma, pancreatic cancer, colorectal cancer, head and neck cancers
- Acceptable performance status (ECOG 0 or 1), adequate organ function and recovery from effects of prior therapies
- Prior therapy with any anthracycline limited to total cumulative dose of less than 350 mg/m² doxorubicin or equivalent



## Baseline Characteristics and Cancer History in the Patient Population

	AVA6000 (80-385 mg/m² Q3W) N=40		
Age, median (range)	65 (30-79)		
<b>Sex, m/f,</b> n (%)	25 / 15 (62.5/37.5)		
ECOG, 0/1. n (%)	12 / 28 (30/70)		
Race			
White, n (%)	34 (85)		
Asian, n (%)	2 (5)		
Black or African American, n (%)	1 (2.5)		
Other/Not reported, n (%)	3 (7.5)		
Ethnicity			
Hispanic/Latino, n (%)	0		
Non-Hispanic, non-Latino, n (%)	38 (95)		
Not reported/unknown, n (%)	2 (5)		

	AVA6000 (80-385 mg/m <sup>2</sup> Q3W) N=40
Cancer Diagnosis	
Soft tissue sarcoma, n (%)	12 (30)
Colorectal carcinoma, n (%)	11 (27.5)
Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, n (%)	8 (20)
Cancers of the biliary tract, n (%)	3 (7.5)
Other <sup>1</sup> , n (%)	6 (15) <sup>1</sup>
Prior cancer therapy	
No. prior regimens, median (range)	3 (0-7)
Any cytotoxic exposure, n (%)	32 (80)
Anthracycline exposure, n (%)	1 (2.5)
Platinum exposure, n (%)	26 (65)
Topoisomerase I inhibitor exposure, n (%)	20 (50)
Immunotherapy exposure, n (%)	14 (40)

AVA6000 phase 1 (ALS-6000-101) data cutoff 27 November 2023

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cancer types in Other category include (n=1 each): non-small cell lung cancer, prostate cancer, transitional cell cancer of the urethra, ovarian carcinoma, lung cancer (not other wise specified), esophageal cancer

## Toxicities with AVA6000 Demonstrate a Dose Response Relationship

All AVA6000-related treatment-emergent adverse events observed by grade and dose cohort

	Standard dose doxorubicin cohorts		Elevated dose doxorubicin cohorts				
	Cohort 1 80 mg/m <sup>2</sup> N=4	Cohort 2 120 mg/m <sup>2</sup> N=6	Cohort 3 160 mg/m <sup>2</sup> N=8	<b>Cohort 4 200 mg/m²</b> N=7	Cohort 5 <sup>1</sup> 250 mg/m <sup>2</sup> N=7	Cohort 6 <sup>1</sup> 310 mg/m <sup>2</sup> N=5	Cohort 7 <sup>1</sup> 385 mg/m <sup>2</sup> N=3
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Grade 1	2 (50)	4 (67)	8 (100)	6 (86)	7 (100)	5 (100)	1 (33)
Grade 2	3 (75)	3 (50)	6 (75)	6 (86)	5 (71)	3 (60)	0
Grade 3	0	0	1 (13)	2 (29)	2 (29)	3 (60)	0
Grade 4	0	0	0	1 (14)	1 (14)	0	0

AVA6000 phase 1 (ALS-6000-101) data cutoff 27 Nov 2023

Cohort ongoing at data cutoff

Dose response relationship seen with all toxicities

- All adverse events demonstrate dose response across cohorts by grade
- Minimal grade 3-4 events observed across all cohorts vs. doxorubicin alone

<sup>1</sup> Cohorts 5, 6 and 7 have all patients ongoing at the time of the data cutoff, thus safety findings in these cohorts will continue to mature

### AVA6000 Leads to Reduced Severe Toxicities Associated with Doxorubicin

Adverse event	AVA6000 (80–385 mg/m² Q3W) N=40 Grade 3-4 , n (%)	Doxorubicin <sup>1</sup> (75 mg/m² Q3W) N=323 Grade 3-4 , n (%)	Doxorubicin² (75 mg/m² Q3W) N=251 Grade 3-4 , n (%)
Neutropenia	3 (7.5)	92 (29)	122 (49)
Anemia	2 (5)	65 (21)	31 (12.4)
Febrile neutropenia	0	34 (11)	41 (16.5)
Leukopenia	0	17 (5)	59 (23.7)
Thrombocytopenia	2 (5)	4 (1)	21 (8.4)
Decreased WBC count	2 (5)	33 (11)	NR
Mucositis/stomatitis	1 (2.5)	7 (2)	7 (2.8)
Fatigue	1 (2.5)	11 (4)	12 (4.8)

AVA6000 data cutoff 27 Nov 2023

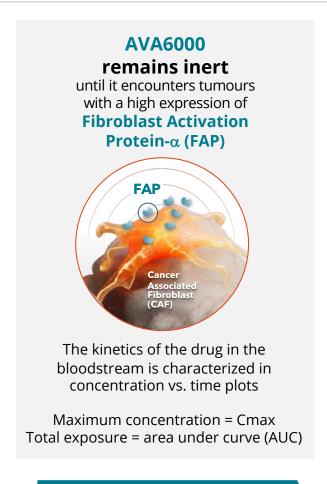
Reduction in all severe toxicities

These severe toxicities limit doxorubicin dosing to every 3 weeks, however the reduction in severe toxicity with AVA6000 **enables dosing optimisation** to every 2 weeks

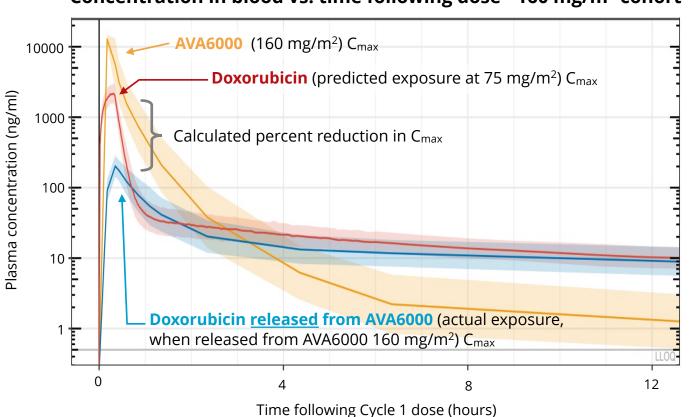
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Tap, WD et al. 2017. Phase 3 trial of evofosfamide with doxorubicin in patients with STS. Data reported from doxorubicin monotherapy arm

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Tap, WD et al. 2020. Phase 3 trial of olaratumumab with doxorubicin in patients with STS. Data reported from doxorubicin monotherapy arm

## AVA6000 Leads to Reduced Concentration and Exposure to Doxorubicin in the Blood



#### Concentration in blood vs. time following dose - 160 mg/m<sup>2</sup> cohort



#### **Reference PK**

75 mg/m<sup>2</sup> (doxorubicin)



Predicted curve based on standard dose published data<sup>1</sup>

#### **Observed PK**

160 mg/m<sup>2</sup>



AVA6000



Doxorubicin

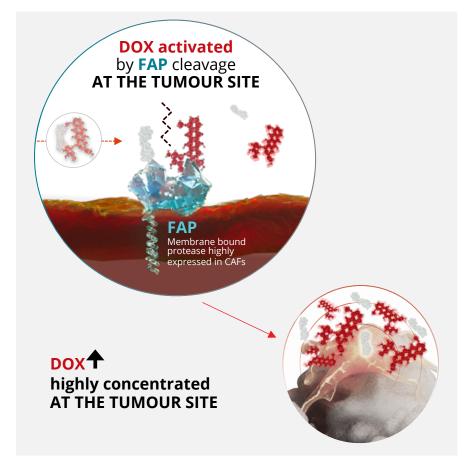
METHOD: Pharmacokinetics (PK) of AVA6000 and released doxorubicin observed in the AVA6000 phase 1 trial are compared to two independent standard dose doxorubicin data sets in a timeconcentration plot over cycle 1 dosing1

<sup>1</sup> Kontny NE, et al.. Cancer ChemothPharmacol. (2013)71(3):749-63

Reduction in maximum concentration and total exposure

>80% reduction across all dose levels of the maximal concentration (Cmax) and 40-80% reduction in total **exposure (AUC)** of released doxorubicin following AVA6000 dosing compared with standard dose doxorubicin

## AVA6000 Leads to Concentration of Released Doxorubicin in the Tumour



Dose cohorts by doxorubicin equivalent	AVA6000 dose cohorts (doxorubicin equivalent)	Plasma doxorubicin at 24h ng/ml mean (st dev)	Tumour doxorubicin level at 24h ng/gm mean (st dev)	Ratio tumour (ng/mg): plasma (ng/ml) mean
<75 mg/m <sup>2</sup> doxorubicin <sup>1</sup>	80 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (54 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	4.9 (0)	161.5 (120.9)	33:1
>75 mg/m² doxorubicin	160-250 mg/m <sup>2</sup> (108-169 mg/m <sup>2</sup> )	8.3 (4.1)	860.9 (730)	104:1

Concentration of dox within the tumour

Central to the mechanism of action of AVA6000 is the ability of the drug to result in the **concentration of activated (cleaved) doxorubicin within the tumour microenvironment** 

## Preliminary Evidence of Antitumour Activity of AVA6000: Key Clinical Observations

# Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS)

59-year-old male with the diagnosis of UPS treated at 160 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W.

Partial Response with duration >6 months with tumour volume reduction -65%, treatment is ongoing

Correlative studies demonstrate high FAP expression in the tumour tissue

Favourable PK profile with reduction in AUC which permits dosing for 7 additional cycles (~21 weeks)

# Angiosarcoma of the spleen

79-year-old female with the diagnosis of angiosarcoma treated at 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W.

Minor Response with visceral (hepatic) metastases reduction of 14% at cycle 2 and -22% at cycle 4

Continued shrinkage of liver metastases at cycle 4 scan with interval development of new bone metastases (mixed response)

# Solitary fibrous tumour (SFT)

Three patients with the diagnosis of SFT have been treated at the dose levels of 250 mg/m<sup>2</sup> and 200 mg/m<sup>2</sup>.

All 3 patients with prolonged stable disease of 4-8 months with 2 of 3 patients ongoing. 2 of 3 patients with rapid progression prior to enrollment

PK profile suggests in these patients additional cycles can be administered in all 3 patients

Anti-tumour effects of AVA6000

- Deepening tumour shrinkage seen in two patients with diseases predicted to have **high FAP expression**
- Low exposure to cleaved doxorubicin in the bloodstream allows for more cycles and longer treatment

## Key Messages: pre | CISION™ Platform Works as Intended

1

Data show that the pre | CISION™ platform works as designed

Data from the phase 1 trial indicate that AVA6000 specifically releases active doxorubicin in the tumour microenvironment

2

AVA6000 has improved the safety and tolerability of doxorubicin

AVA6000 dosing in the phase 1 trial leads to a reduction in the frequency and severity of the toxicities associated with doxorubicin

3

Preliminary signs of AVA6000 clinical activity are encouraging

Preliminary results indicate clinical activity of AVA6000 in patients with tumours with high FAP expression further validating the pre | CISION™ mechanism of action

Optimising dose and schedule should increase efficacy of AVA6000 in selected indications

Given the favourable safety data, an every two weeks dosing arm will assist in optimising the schedule and dose for further clinical development in patients with FAPhigh indications

# (a) Avacta<sup>®</sup>

## Glossary

**FAP** – Fibroblast activation protein

**TME** – Tumour micro environnent

**PREP** – Prolyl endopeptidase – a protein coding gene

**HEK-** Human embryonic kidney

**HEK model** - human embryonic kidney model, a cell line created for use in generating data

**Xenograft** - tissues transplanted from one species to another

**PDX** – Patient Derived Xenograft, which are models of cancer where the tissue or cells from a patient's tumour are implanted into a mouse.

**HPAF-IIP** – Human Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma cell line.

**WBC count** – White blood cell count

**PK** - Pharmacokinetics

**CAF** – Cancer associated fibroblast

**Cleave** – remove

**Peptide** – chain of amino acids that can bind to a warhead

**D-Ala-Pro** - a peptide sequence providing exquisite selectivity for cleavage by  $FAP\alpha$ 

**CGP-DOX** - carboxybenzyl- Gly-Pro-doxorubicin, another modified version of doxorubicin

Osteosarcoma - a tumour of the bone

**Cytotoxic** - a substance or process that can damage cells or cause them to die

**Anthracyclines** - a class of drugs used in cancer chemotherapy

**Topoisomerases** - enzymes that play essential roles in DNA replication

**Neutropenia** - a low number of white blood cells called neutrophils in the blood

**Mucositis** – when the mouth or gut is sore and inflamed **Leukopenia** – when the body doesn't have enough disease-fighting leukocytes in the blood

**Febrile neutropenia** - the development of a fever, alongside other signs of infection such as feeling unwell, shivers and shakes in a patient with neutropenia

**Thrombocytopenia** – a deficiency of platelets in the blood.

**Cmax** – maximum concentration

**AUC** – area under the curve (in this case showing overall exposure)

**Undifferentiated pleomorphic sarcoma (UPS)** - a type of cancer that begins mostly in the soft tissues of the body

**Angiosarcoma** - a type of cancer that forms in the lining of the blood vessels and lymph vessels

**Solitary fibrous tumours (SFT)** - growths of cells that can form in almost any part of the body.

