



SOF-SKN™ data presented at rheumatology conference

Highlights

- Data presented at Australian Rheumatology Association scientific meeting for the first time
- SOF-SKN reduced inflammation in rheumatology-relevant animal model
- HERACLES clinical trial starting soon

Sydney, 6 May 2025: Innovative biotech company **Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX)** is pleased to announce it has presented clinically relevant SOF-SKN™ data at the Australian Rheumatology Association's (ARA) Annual Scientific Meeting, marking the first time the company has engaged audiences at a specialist rheumatology event.

[SOF-SKN](#) is a novel drug candidate for autoimmune diseases, initially targeted at cutaneous lupus erythematosus (CLE) as a proof of concept before potential development for autoimmune-related skin diseases like psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. The core Sofra™ technology could also be developed for rheumatoid arthritis, type 1 diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease and other diseases linked to the dysregulation of the immune system, such as dementia.

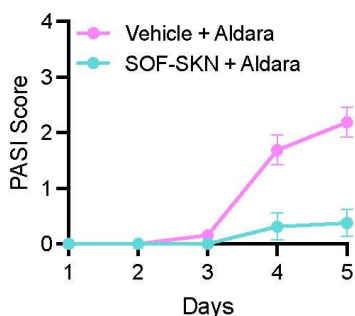
SOF-SKN contains a proprietary ultra-short oligonucleotide that has been explicitly designed and optimised as a dual inhibitor drug blocking two specific immune sensors known as Toll-like receptors 7 and 8 (TLR7/8), which are overactivated in a number of autoimmune diseases including lupus.

Building on [earlier testing](#) during the drug development process, the new data presented at the conference employed the same approach to study the final version of SOF-SKN that will be used in the upcoming HERACLES clinical trial.

In the study, a model of TLR7-driven skin inflammation was created by applying Aldara® cream containing 5% imiquimod (a TLR7 agonist) topically to the backs of mice. Aldara induces skin inflammation via the same immune sensors that are responsible for lupus. SOF-SKN was also applied onto the same areas in half of the tested group.

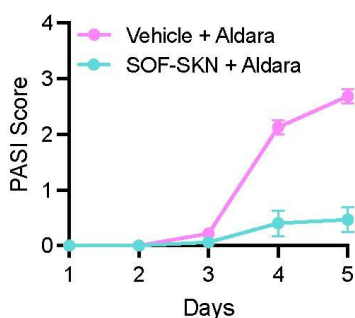
Mice were scored daily for the appearance and severity of skin inflammation using an industry standard system (PASI score), and the results showed that while Aldara created strong inflammation, the topical administration of SOF-SKN significantly reduced visible signs of skin irritation.

Back redness



The redness of the skin on the backs of the SOF-SKN treated mice (turquoise line) was negligible, while Aldara plus an inert substance resulted in marked redness due to inflammation (pink line).

Back scaliness



The scaliness of the skin on the backs of the SOF-SKN treated mice (turquoise line) was negligible, while Aldara plus an inert substance resulted in marked scaliness due to inflammation (pink line).

SOF-SKN also significantly decreased the expression of TLR7-dependent inflammatory genes in the skin area where inflammation had been induced by Aldara. This result provides further evidence of the potential of SOF-SKN as a treatment for diseases such as CLE, where TLR7-driven inflammation plays a key role.

The ARA is the peak body representing rheumatologists, nurses, and other healthcare professionals with an interest in rheumatology – the broad medical discipline for the management of both musculoskeletal diseases such as osteoarthritis and back pain, as well as autoimmune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, scleroderma, fibromyalgia and vasculitis.

Noxopharm CEO Dr Gisela Mautner said: “As we look forward to the first-in-human clinical trial for SOF-SKN, which is scheduled to start soon, this was an ideal time to strengthen our engagement with healthcare professionals in this space.

“We continue to broaden our outreach to relevant groups, highlighting the potential of our Sofra technology platform to reduce inflammation, generate new drugs to benefit patients in Australia and overseas, and tackle the ever-growing autoimmune disease market.”

-ENDS-

About Noxopharm

Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX) is an innovative Australian biotech company discovering and developing novel treatments for cancer and inflammation, including a pioneering technology to enhance a wide range of mRNA medicines.



The company utilises specialist in-house capabilities and strategic partnerships with leading researchers to build a growing pipeline of new proprietary drugs based on two technology platforms – Sofra™ (inflammation, autoimmunity, mRNA drug enhancement, and oncology) and Chroma™ (oncology).

To learn more, please visit: noxopharm.com

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Dr Gisela Mautner, CEO and Managing Director of Noxopharm, has approved the release of this document to the market on behalf of the Board of Directors.

Forward Looking Statements

This announcement may contain forward-looking statements. You can identify these statements by the fact they use words such as “aim”, “anticipate”, “assume”, “believe”, “continue”, “could”, “estimate”, “expect”, “intend”, “may”, “plan”, “predict”, “project”, “plan”, “should”, “target”, “will” or “would” or the negative of such terms or other similar expressions. Forward-looking statements are based on estimates, projections and assumptions made by Noxopharm about circumstances and events that have not yet taken place. Although Noxopharm believes the forward-looking statements to be reasonable, they are not certain. Forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that are in some cases beyond the Company’s control (including but not limited to the COVID-19 pandemic) that could cause the actual results, performance or achievements to differ materially from those expressed or implied by the forward-looking statement.