Immunotech Biopharm Ltd
永泰生物製藥有限公司
(Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability)
(Stock Code: 6978)

VOLUNTARY ANNOUNCEMENT
FIRST PATIENT ENROLLED IN THE PHASE I CLINICAL TRIAL FOR THE DENOCABTAGENE CILOLEUCEL INJECTION

This announcement is made by Immunotech Biopharm Ltd (the "**Company**", together with its subsidiaries, the "**Group**") on a voluntary basis.

The board (the "**Board**") of directors (the "**Directors**") of the Company is pleased to announce that the Company has completed the first patient enrolment for its Phase I clinical trial for the Denocabtagene Ciloleucel Injection ("**DCI**") in the PRC on 7 November 2023, which marked the milestone of the Group's development in its product pipeline. DCI, originally known as RC19D2, CAR-T-19-D2 and CAR-T-19-DNR, targets CD19 antigens and an antagonist of proteins in the downstream signaling of TGF-ß, it is an injection for the treatment of patients with relapsed and refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma ("**DLBCL**"). The injection has the goal of overcoming chimeric antigen receptor T cells' ("**CAR-T cells**") pain points in terms of the lack of persistence, the lack of efficacy in the treatment of solid tumours, and in the prevention of tumour recurrence. Based on the progress of clinical trial for DCI, it is expected that the target patient enrolment will complete in the year end of 2024 and the preliminary analysis and results will be published in the first half of 2025.

ABOUT DCI

CAR-T cells are T cells that have been genetically engineered to produce an artificial T-cell receptor and chimeric antigen receptors that have been engineered to give T cells the new ability to target a specific protein on the surfaces of cells. CAR-T cells are remarkably effective in the treatment of patients with relapsed and refractory lymphoma. Despite this, CAR-T cells' therapeutic effect on a certain proportion of patients is still very poor partly because of mechanisms in lymphomas to evade attack by the immune system, as is the case of most other malignant solid tumours.

The functional components of the DCI are T cells that are genetically modified to express an anti-CD19 chimeric antigen receptor and an antagonist of proteins in the downstream signaling of TGF-ß. CD19 is widely expressed on the surface of B cells during all phases of B cell development. Furthermore, the vast majority of tumour cells from diseases caused by the mutation of B cells and their precursor cells such as B cell lymphoma and acute B lymphocytic leukaemia also express CD19, making CD19 one of the targets for the treatment of these tumours. By linking the anti-CD19 single-chain antibody, protein transmembrane domain, and co-stimulatory molecular domain, the technology may avoid issues such as the failure of autoimmune cells to recognise human CD19 protein, the inhibition of tumour cells on immune cells and the insufficient second messenger signalling pathway. This may enable the modified T cells to directly recognise the CD19 molecule and kill the cells carrying the target, thereby achieving the purpose of treating the tumour. In addition, the synchronisation of transcription and translation of the antagonist of proteins in the downstream signaling of TGF-ß within the cells has the potential to inhibit the immunosuppressive effect caused by TGF-ß in the tumour microenvironment and prevent the weakening and depletion of CAR-T cells' immune killing ability, thereby further improving the therapeutic effect.

Background

Lymphoma is one of the common malignant tumours. According to the Chinese Society of Clinical Oncology (CSCO) Lymphoma Diagnosis and Treatment Guidelines 2022* (《中國臨床腫瘤學會(CSCO)淋巴瘤診療指南2022》), the annual incidence is around 75,400, the incidence rate is 4.75/100,000, the number of deaths is 40,500, and the mortality rate is 2.64/100,000. According to histopathological changes, lymphomas are divided into Hodgkin's lymphoma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma ("**NHL**"), of which NHL accounts for about 90% of all lymphomas. About 85% of NHL originates from B cells, and the most common type is DLBCL.

ABOUT THE GROUP

The Group is a leading cellular immunotherapy biopharmaceutical company in China focusing on the research, development, and commercialisation of T cell immunotherapy for almost 17 years. Since its establishment in 2006, it has focused on research and development and clinical applications of cellular immunotherapy drugs for cancers and other major diseases, by applying advanced theories in immunology, cell biology, and genetics.

Its product pipeline features major classes of cellular immunotherapy products, including both non-genetically-modified and genetically-modified products, as well as both multi-target and single-target products. Other than EAL®, its main product candidates include the CAR-T cell series and the TCR-T cell series. To learn more about Immunotech, please visit www.eaal.net.

Cautionary Statement required by Rule 18A.05 of the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited: The Group cannot guarantee that DCI will ultimately be successfully developed and marketed. Shareholders and potential investors of the Company are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the shares of the Company.

By order of the Board
Immunotech Biopharm Ltd
Tan Zheng
Chairman and executive Director

Hong Kong, 7 November 2023

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Mr Tan Zheng as Chairman and executive Director, Dr Wang Yu as executive Director, Mr Tao Ran, Mr Wang Ruihua, Mr Yang Fan and Mr Wang Donghu as non-executive Directors, and Professor Wang Yingdian, Mr Ng Chi Kit and Ms Peng Sujiu as independent non-executive Directors.

* *For identification purposes only*