MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENT

# Actinogen announces Phase 2 trials in Alzheimer’s Disease and Depression after a second placebo-controlled clinical trial confirms improved attention and working memory with its oral drug Xanamem[[1]](#footnote-2)®

*Treatment in sight for over 25 million Americans after new clinical trial confirms safety and cognitive enhancement activity of low, once-a-day doses of Xanamem*

**June 14, 2022 Actinogen Medical Limited** recently announced positive results for Part A of its two-part double-blind placebo-controlled XanaMIA dose-ranging trial, which confirmed Xanamem’s ability to rapidly enhance attention and working memory.

These results take the company an important step closer to establishing a novel treatment for Alzheimer’s Disease (AD), a condition that impacts over six million Americans and more than 50 million worldwide. Xanamem works in a unique way by inhibiting the production of the “stress hormone” cortisol inside brain cells.

In addition, the company is expanding its upcoming clinical trial program to include a Phase 2 trial in patients with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD). Impaired attention and memory, as well as difficulty in thinking are all common and prominent symptoms of MDD, a disease which affects more than 20 million Americans.

**Actinogen’s CEO, Dr Steven Gourlay MBBS PhD said:**

*“The results from our recent XanaMIA trial are exciting and highly confirmatory. We are now initiating two robust Phase 2 trials in patients with Alzheimer’s Disease and Depression. Xanamem has the potential to be an effective low-dose daily oral therapy for these and many conditions where it may be used alone or in combination with other treatments.”*

**Leading international cognition expert Professor John Harrison PhD commented on the XanaMIA Part A trial results:**

*“These results are an important replication of previous trial findings in a cognitively normal, older population. The positive effects on attention and working memory observed in the XanaMIA trial are a significant step in the development of a new treatment for Alzheimer’s Disease with a novel mechanism of action.”*

**Upcoming Phase 2 trial program**

The **Alzheimer’s Disease (AD) XanaMIA Part B Phase 2 trial** will be a six-month dose-ranging, placebo-controlled trial in approximately 300 patients with early stages of AD, including patients with Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI) as well as patients with mild AD, where some functional impairment (difficulty completing activities of daily living) is present over and above the purely cognitive difficulties experienced by MCI patients.

Effects of 5mg and 10mg Xanamem dose levels on cognition will be measured by the same Cogstate Cognitive Test Battery (CTB) used in the recent XanaMIA Part A trial, supplemented by a variety of other tests of memory, attention and executive function. Results are expected in 2024.

The **MDD Phase 2 trial** will be a six-week proof-of-concept, placebo-controlled trial in approximately 120 patients with persistent MDD and cognitive difficulties despite a standard course of anti-depressant therapy. Xanamem 10 mg daily or placebo will be added to the existing anti-depressant therapy and effects on both depression and cognition will be assessed. Results are expected in late 2023, or 2024.

**Details of the XanaMIA Part A trial results**

Actinogen’s XanaMIA Part A trial confirmed Xanamem’s ability to rapidly enhance attention and working memory in healthy, cognitively normal older adults while also confirming its promising safety profile.

**Key trial design and result features:**

* The dose-ranging, Phase 1b trial comprised 107 healthy, cognitively normal, older adults aged 50-80 years who received 10 mg or 5 mg oral doses of Xanamem or matching placebo once daily for 6 weeks
* Met primary safety, pharmacodynamic, and efficacy endpoints
* Confirmed pharmacodynamic activity for both 10 mg and 5mg dose levels through measurement of ACTH (adrenocorticotropic hormone) response
* Confirmed Xanamem’s ability to rapidly enhance attention and working memory in this second well-controlled trial with statistically significant Cohen’s d effect size achieved
* Replicated prior cognitive findings seen with the same Cogstate CTB and a 20 mg daily Xanamem dose
* Results consistent with a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging study that indicated dose levels of 10 mg Xanamem daily or lower have high levels of target engagement in the brain

**ENDS**

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**About Actinogen Medical**

Actinogen Medical (ACW) is an ASX-listed, biotechnology company developing a novel therapy for neurological and neuropsychiatric diseases associated with dysregulated brain cortisol. There is a strong association between cortisol and detrimental changes in the brain, affecting cognitive function, harm to brain cells and long-term cognitive health.

Cognitive function means how a person understands, remembers and thinks clearly. Cognitive functions include memory, attention, reasoning, awareness and decision-making.

Actinogen is currently developing its lead compound, Xanamem, as a promising new therapy for Alzheimer’s Disease and Depression and hopes to study Fragile X Syndrome and other neurological and psychiatric diseases in the future. Reducing cortisol inside brain cells could have a positive impact in these and many other diseases. The cognitive dysfunction, behavioural abnormalities, and neuropsychological burden associated with these conditions is debilitating for patients, and there is a substantial unmet medical need for new and improved treatments.

**About Xanamem**

Xanamem’s novel mechanism of action is to block the production of cortisol inside cells through the inhibition of the 11β-HSD1 enzyme in the brain. Xanamem is designed to get into the brain after it is absorbed in the intestines upon swallowing its capsule.

Chronically elevated cortisol is associated with cognitive decline in Alzheimer’s Disease, and Xanamem has shown the ability to enhance cognition in healthy, older volunteers. Cognitive impairment is also a feature in Depression and many other diseases. Cortisol itself is also associated with depressive symptoms and when targeted via other mechanisms has shown some promise in prior clinical trials.

The Company has studied 11β-HSD1 inhibition by Xanamem in more than 300 volunteers and patients, so far finding a statistically significant improvement in working memory and attention, compared with placebo, in healthy, older volunteers in two consecutive trials. Previously, high levels of target engagement in the brain with doses as low as 5 mg daily have been demonstrated in a human PET imaging study. A series of Phase 2 studies in multiple diseases is being conducted to further confirm and characterize Xanamem’s therapeutic potential.

Xanamem is an investigational product and is not approved for use outside of a clinical trial by the FDA or by any global regulatory authority. Xanamem® is a trademark of Actinogen Medical.

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**ACTINOGEN MEDICAL ENCOURAGES ALL CURRENT INVESTORS TO GO PAPERLESS BY REGISTERING THEIR DETAILS WITH THE DESIGNATED REGISTRY SERVICE PROVIDER, AUTOMIC GROUP.**

1. ® Xanamem is a registered trademark of Actinogen Medical Limited. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)