

**ASX: ALA**

Arovella Therapeutics Limited  
ACN 090 987 250



## ASX Release

3 March 2025

### SPONSORED RESEARCH AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

#### Highlights:

- **Arovella expands research capability for IL-12-TM and solid tumour programs**
- **Strengthens its relationship with Professor Gianpietro Dotti's research group**
- **Appoints a research scientist within University of North Carolina Lineberger Cancer Center**

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA 3 March 2025:** Arovella Therapeutics Ltd (ASX: ALA), a biotechnology company focused on developing its invariant Natural Killer T (iNKT) cell platform to treat cancer, is pleased to announce that it has entered into a Sponsored Research Agreement (SRA) with Professor Gianpietro Dotti's research group at the University of North Carolina (UNC), to expand its research capability for IL-12-TM and solid tumour programs.

In January 2024, Arovella announced an exclusive License for Professor Dotti's IL-12-TM technology, developed at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Center<sup>1</sup>. In lieu of an upfront fee for the license, Arovella committed to entering into an SRA with Professor Dotti's group. The SRA will run for one year and contains standard termination provisions. IP that is developed with Arovella's sponsorship or jointly invented by UNC and Arovella will be jointly owned and the cost of the SRA to Arovella is expected to be approximately US\$280k per annum.

Recent work from the laboratory of Professor Dotti was published in the prestigious peer reviewed journal, Nature Cancer, comparing CAR-T and CAR-iNKT cells against a range of solid tumours. His team's work demonstrated that CAR-iNKT cells are superior to CAR-T cells at eliminating solid tumours<sup>2</sup>. By entering into a SRA, Arovella strengthens its relationship with Professor Dotti and his team and expands its research capability, which will facilitate the development of its solid tumour programs. In addition to accessing resources and expertise in Professor Dotti's laboratory, Arovella has also recruited a post-doctoral scientist, Dr Clinton Heinze, who will be embedded within Professor Dotti's team to complement the research efforts.

Arovella's CEO and Managing Director, Dr Michael Baker, commented: "We are thrilled to expand our relationship with Professor Dotti and his team at the University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. We are also excited to appoint a talented scientist, Dr Clinton Heinze, to work closely with Gianpietro Dotti's team. Dr Heinze has a magnificent background, and we are delighted to have him on the project. This is a great step forward enabling us to further develop our CAR-iNKT cell programs targeting solid tumours."

To learn more about the IL-12-TM technology and how it enhances the activity of CAR-iNKT cells, view our new explanatory video [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> 30 Jan 2024: "Arovella enhances solid tumour pipeline by licensing novel CAR-iNKT cell armoring technology"

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43018-024-00830-0>

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This announcement has been authorised for release by the Company's Board of Directors.

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS:**

##### **About Arovella Therapeutics Ltd**

Arovella Therapeutics Ltd (ASX: ALA) is a biotechnology company focused on developing its invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cell therapy platform from Imperial College London to treat blood cancers and solid tumours. Arovella's lead product is ALA-101. ALA-101 consists of CAR19-iNKT cells that have been modified to produce a Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) that targets CD19. CD19 is an antigen found on the surface of numerous cancer types. iNKT cells also contain an invariant T cell receptor (ITCR) that targets glycolipid bound CD1d, another antigen found on the surface of several cancer types. ALA-101 is being developed as an allogeneic cell therapy, which means it can be given from a healthy donor to a patient. Arovella is also expanding into solid tumour treatment through its CLDN18.2-targeting technology licensed from Sparx Group. Arovella will also incorporate its IL-12-TM technology into its solid tumour programs.

**Glossary:** **iNKT cell** – invariant Natural Killer T cells; **CAR** – Chimeric Antigen Receptor that can be introduced into immune cells to target cancer cells; **TCR** – T cell receptors are a group of proteins found on immune cells that recognise fragments of antigens as peptides bound to MHC complexes; **B-cell lymphoma** – A type of cancer that forms in B cells (a type of immune system cell); **CD1d** – Cluster of differentiation 1, which is expressed on some immune cells and cancer cells; **aGalCer** – alpha-galactosylceramide is a specific ligand for human and mouse natural killer T cells. It is a synthetic glycolipid.

For more information, visit [www.arovella.com](http://www.arovella.com)

This announcement contains certain statements which may constitute forward-looking statements or information ("forward-looking statements"), including statements regarding negotiations with third parties and regulatory approvals. These forward-looking statements are based on certain key expectations and assumptions, including assumptions regarding the actions of third parties and financial terms. These factors and assumptions are based upon currently available information, and the forward-looking statements herein speak only of the date hereof. Although the expectations and assumptions reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable in the view of the Company's directors and management, reliance should not be placed on such statements as there is no assurance that they will prove correct. This is because forward-looking statements are subject to known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that could influence actual results or events and cause actual results or events to differ materially from those stated, anticipated or implied in the forward-looking statements. These risks include but are not limited to: uncertainties and other factors that are beyond the control of the Company; global economic conditions; the risk associated with foreign currencies; and risk associated with securities market volatility. The Company assumes no obligation to update any forward-looking statements or to update the reasons why actual results could differ from those reflected in the forward-looking statements, except as required by Australian securities laws and ASX Listing Rules.