Positive SOF-SKN™ dosing data shows prolonged skin retention

Highlights

- **Promising new preclinical data to support human trial**
- **Results support sustained activity**
- **Acts as predicted in skin layers**

Sydney, 22 April 2026: Clinical-stage biotech company **Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX)** is pleased to announce promising new data in support of a future human trial for SOF-SKN™, the company's cutaneous lupus drug candidate.

Following the recent successful conclusion of the safety-related Phase 1 HERACLES clinical trial, the Noxopharm team has been investigating in more depth a dosing regimen for SOF-SKN – namely, the ideal frequency with which it could be administered to patients.

This will form an important part of the submission package to regulatory authorities at the next stage of SOF-SKN's clinical development.

Using an *in vivo* animal model, the uptake of SOF-16 (the active ingredient in SOF-SKN) at the highest dose from the HERACLES trial was examined in both normal and disease-like skin.

This pharmacokinetic study was designed to help define a dosing regimen that will enable consistent and appropriate levels of the drug to be present in the skin over specific time frames.

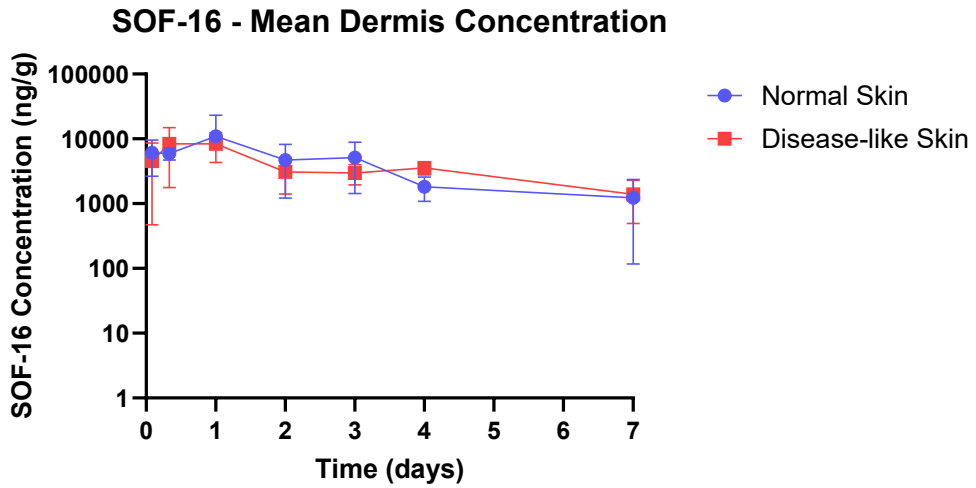
The study also measured the amount of drug in the skin versus the amount absorbed into the bloodstream, as SOF-SKN has been precisely formulated to remain in the skin layers and not undergo systemic absorption.

The results confirmed several important characteristics of the drug and represent a positive step in its refinement.

In the first part of the study, the company found that the half-life of SOF-16 in both the normal and disease-like skin was approximately 3.5 days. Combined with the excellent safety profile seen to date, SOF-16's long half-life in the skin has the potential to provide several important advantages.

By remaining in the target tissue longer after each dose, it may support more sustained and durable therapeutic activity. This extended skin residence time may also allow for less frequent dosing beyond once daily, improving convenience for patients and potentially supporting better adherence in chronic treatment settings.

Figure: The concentration of SOF-16 (the active ingredient in SOF-SKN) in the dermis is consistent across both normal and disease-like skin, with a half-life of approximately 3.5 days.



In the second part of the study, the data showed that in both the normal and disease-like skin, the drug remained almost entirely in the epidermis and dermis layers of the skin – the target layers where it will be active.

As preferred, absorption from the skin to the bloodstream was below quantifiable levels at all time points. This lack of apparent systemic absorption of the drug allows for sustained suppression of local innate immune activation within the skin, with minimal undesirable systemic immunosuppression.

Following this positive data, Noxopharm is now in the process of engaging a Contract Research Organisation (CRO) to support preparations for a human trial.

Noxopharm CEO Dr Olivier Laczka said: "These results take us a step further in SOF-SKN's development and show that the drug is going where we want it to be going in the body, even in the setting of diseased skin. We strongly believe our SOF-SKN approach could provide a solution to millions of people suffering from chronic inflammatory skin conditions, and we will press ahead as we compile our data package in preparation for a trial and regulatory submissions."

SOF-SKN is initially being developed for the chronic inflammation caused by the autoimmune disease cutaneous lupus erythematosus (CLE), before potential development for other autoimmune-related skin diseases like psoriasis and dermatomyositis. The global CLE market is worth more than US$3.3 billion and is expected to grow significantly over the coming years. The core Sofra™ technology could also be further utilised for rheumatoid arthritis and diabetes, plus other diseases linked to immune system dysregulation.

-ENDS-

About the Sofra technology platform

Developed from a breakthrough discovery in the immune system, Sofra comprises a novel class of drugs targeting inflammatory and autoimmune diseases, as well as enhancing RNA therapeutics and vaccines.

Sofra technology has potential applications in a wide range of diseases related to the immune system such as rheumatoid arthritis, lupus and diabetes, as well as other diseases like cancer.

The global autoimmune disease therapeutics market was worth US$163.2 billion in 2024 and is expected to reach US$219.6 billion by 2035, while the worldwide immuno-oncology market was US$43 billion in 2023 and is projected to hit US$284 billion by 2033.

The proprietary platform is based on short nucleic acid sequences, the building blocks of DNA or RNA, known as oligonucleotides. These act on specific immune sensors to regulate inflammation at its source, reducing or stimulating it to control the disease.

Further information and animations: SOF-SKN / SOF-VAC

About Noxopharm

Noxopharm Limited (ASX:NOX) is a clinical-stage Australian biotech company discovering and developing novel treatments for cancer and inflammation, including a pioneering technology to improve the safety profile of 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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Noxopharm CEO Dr Olivier Laczka 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.