



MuriGen Therapeutics

About MuriGen Therapeutics

MuriGen Therapeutics is an Australian based drug discovery and development company established by the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research and four of Australia's leading scientists. MuriGen is building a portfolio of novel drugs for unmet medical needs across a number of therapeutic areas including arthritis, thrombocytopenia, inflammation, epilepsy and thalassemia. By leveraging its proprietary drug discovery platform, MuriGen Therapeutics is working towards the validation of novel drug targets that have the potential to provide significant benefits for researchers, health care practitioners, and patients.

Company Overview

MuriGen Therapeutics is focused on the discovery, development and commercialisation of novel drugs across a number of therapeutic areas including arthritis, thrombocytopenia, inflammatory diseases, epilepsy and thalassemia. By leveraging its unique approach to drug discovery MuriGen Therapeutics is focused on the validation of novel drug targets that have potential to provide significant benefits for researchers, health care practitioners, and patients.

MuriGen Therapeutics has developed a unique approach to generate biological information critical to the discovery, validation, and development of new therapeutics. Its biology-based technology involves a functional analysis of an entire mammalian genome to locate novel therapeutic entry points to treat disease. Exploiting its proprietary discovery platform, MuriGen Therapeutics has proven the principle of its technology using a model of thrombocytopenia.

MuriGen's key partner is the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI), one of the world's foremost medical research establishments, its mission being "mastery of disease through discovery". Over many decades, advances and discoveries at the Institute have led to significant benefits for patients throughout the world. G-CSF was discovered at WEHI. MuriGen is based at the WEHI Biotech Centre and has access to state-of-the-art world class facilities

Product Pipeline

MuriGen's focus is in inflammatory diseases, epilepsy, thrombocytopenia and thalassemia. MuriGen's lead program is based on a discovery at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Professor Ian Wick's laboratory that highlighted G-CSF as a potential therapeutic target in inflammatory joint diseases, such as Arthritis. This major discovery provides a rationale for the development of G-CSF antagonists for the treatment of Arthritis.

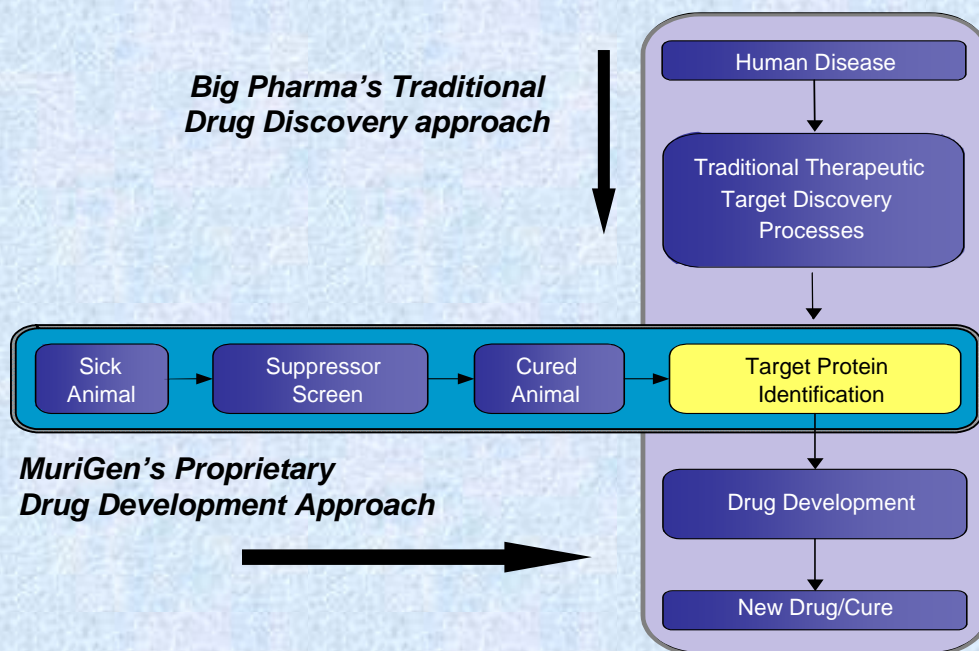
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Product Pipeline

Program Indication	Target Discovery	Lead Discovery	Lead Optimization	Preclinical	Phase I	Phase II
Arthritis						
hG-CSFR.ECD-Fc	█	█	█			
mAb hG-CSF	█	█				
mAb hG-CSFR	█	█				
Thrombocytopenia	█					
Inflammation	█					
Epilepsy	█					
Thalassemia	█					

Science and Technology

The MuriGen Therapeutics strategy of target discovery bypasses the “functional genomics” approaches used prevalently in today’s biotechnology industry. The central premise is that if a gene can be inactivated genetically to cure a disease then pharmacological inhibition of the same corresponding protein will also cure a disease. The result is a mouse with the phenotype of absence of disease and the gene that is implicated in curing that disease.



MuriGen’s strategy is predicated on the fact that the protein being inhibited by a pharmaceutical does not have to be functioning incorrectly in a patient and does not have to be directly involved in the disease process. There are many examples of successful drug treatment where the protein being inhibited has no direct role in disease onset and progression.

A classic example is the inhibition of the renin-angiotensin pathway by either ACE inhibitors or AII receptor blockers in the treatment of hypertension. In only a small fraction of hypertensive patients is this pathway involved in the onset and progression of disease yet these drugs remain among the most widely prescribed and effective drugs available today.

A retrospective review (1) of the top selling pharmaceutical drugs in the market demonstrates that their discovery can be linked to the particular genes that they target. This is regardless of its direct implication in the disease being treated. It is MuriGen's strategy to contribute to the discovery of future target genes that can be used to find new pharmaceuticals for major unmet medical needs.

(1) Zambrowicz BP, Sands AT. Knockouts Model The 100 Best Selling Drugs - Will They Model The Next 100? Nat Rev Drug Discov. 2003 2:38-51.

Mouse husbandry

WEHI is among one of the largest mouse breeders globally. It maintains an isolated germ free breeding facility at Kew, which produces more than 100,000 mice annually. The experimental mouse facility houses 70,000 mice. MuriGen Therapeutics is located at a new micro-isolation equipped facility at the WEHI Biotechnology centre at Bundoora Victoria. The capacity of this facility is sufficient to accommodate more than 35,000 mice.



The large scale WEHI mouse breeding facility at Bundoora is a clean facility where animals are maintained as a specific pathogen free (SPF) colony.

Partners

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