



# Resonance Health Enters China - Contract Executed with Chinese Pharma Company

### **Highlights**

- Resonance Health contracted by a Chinese pharmaceutical company
- Effectively represents Resonance Health's first entry into the large Chinese market
- FerriScan® to be used by Hangzhou Zede Pharma-Tech Co. Ltd., in its Phase IIb clinical study
- Study relates to the development of new treatment for iron overload in thalassemia patients
- Services commence on 1 March 2022 and expected to run 14 months with option to extend
- Liver-iron of patients being assessed by FerriScan® at up to 5 timepoints over 14 months
- 30-40 million people in China estimated to carry alpha and/or beta thalassemia gene

## **Resonance Health Contracted for Clinical Study**

Resonance Health Ltd (ASX: RHT) ("Resonance Health" or the "Company") has been contracted to provide liver-iron-concentration ("LIC") quantification services for Hangzhou Zede Pharma-Tech Co. Ltd., a Chinese company based in Yuhang District, Hangzhou, Zhejiang, China ("Zede Pharma-Tech") for its Phase IIb clinical study to assess the safety and efficacy of a new treatment for severe iron overload in transfusion-dependent thalassemia patients aged 16 and over ("Study").

### **Study and Contract Details**

The Company's involvement in the Study is expected to span 14 months, excluding any extensions. Resonance Health's FerriScan® medical device and its ISO certified service centre in Perth, Australia, will be used to measure and quantify the LIC of trial participants at up to five timepoints over the 14-month period. In the event the Study continues beyond Phase IIb, Resonance Health's involvement may be extended beyond 14 months.

The contract value, assuming a 14-month involvement, is estimated to be approximately US\$200K with the caveat that Zede Pharma-Tech may discontinue or extend the Study at any time, in which case the Company will be paid for services performed up to the termination date. Under the terms of the Master Services Agreement ("MSA") executed by the parties, changes to the Company's services can be affected by the parties executing a change order(s).

### High Prevalence of Haemoglobin Disease and Iron Overload Disorders in China

This is the first time Resonance Health has been contracted by a Chinese pharmaceutical company and it represents the Company's entry into this large market.

There is a high prevalence of thalassemia in several Chinese provinces, particularly in the southern provinces of Guangxi, Yunnan, Guangdong, Fujian, and Sichuan. The overall prevalence of alphathalassemia and beta-thalassemia gene carriers in China is estimated to be up to 7.9% and 2.2% of the population respectively with the highest prevalence believed to be in the Guangxi province in



southern China where up to 14.1% of the population is estimated to have the alpha-thalassemia gene and up to 6.8% of the population is estimated to have the beta-thalassemia gene.<sup>1</sup> The population of Guangxi was estimated to be 48.4 million people in 2016.

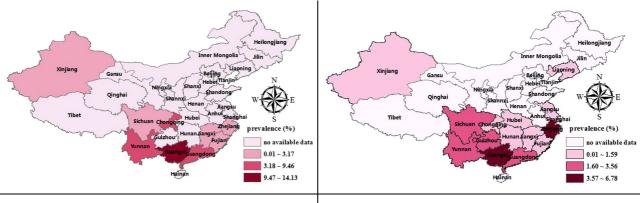


Figure 1. Distribution of alpha-thalassemia in China (% of population)

Figure 2. Distribution of <u>beta</u>-thalassemia in China (% of population)

Managing Director of Resonance Health, Mr. Mitchell Wells commented:

"We are very excited to partner with Hangzhou Zede Pharma-Tech Co., Ltd. in this important clinical trial focused on the development of a new chelation drug therapy. FerriScan® is the ideal diagnostic technique for pharmaceutical companies working in genetic iron disease space and it has proven itself time and time again with pharmaceutical companies seeking the most accurate assessment of LIC. Thalassemia patients globally have benefitted from this device which is widely recognized as the global gold standard for liver-iron concentration assessment.

To launch in China in this manner, with the provision of services to a Chinese pharma is tremendous news and the best possible way to enter this market. China is an enormous potential market for our products and services, with very high prevalence of thalassemia compared to other nations. I hope that our work with Zede Pharma is the beginning of a long and strong relationship with them and we look forward to helping them address the enormous challenge that thalassemia poses to patients in China and globally.

Our entry into China is a significant milestone in our strategy to access new much larger markets with our products. The quantum of people that could benefit from our devices in China is boggling and we stand ready to support Zede Pharma in its development of a new chelation drug therapy for thalassemia patients globally."

CEO of Zede Pharam-Tech, Dr. Zudong Liu commented:

"Hangzhou Zede Pharma-Tech Co., Ltd. has a proud history of developing high quality drug treatments and we are delighted to partner with Resonance Health in our clinical trial for a new chelator drug, noting that Resonance Health has a global reputation for being the gold standard in liver-iron-concentration assessment.

China is a developing country and iron chelation therapy is still at its early stage of development. However, the significant economic growth in China has created a vast market for advanced therapeutic/diagnostics technology. I hope our partnership will not only help us to develop a better

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "The prevalence of thalassemia in mainland China: evidence from epidemiological surveys", Ketong Lai, Guifeng Huang, Li Su & Yunyan He, *Nature*, 19 April 2017



and safer iron chelator, but also will help Resonance Health's technology enter the potentially largest market in the world.

I strongly believe that with the professional support from Resonance Health, Zede Pharma will be able to develop a better, safer chelator for all iron overloaded patients."

### About FerriScan® and Thalassemia

FerriScan® provides accurate measurement of liver-iron-concentration through non-invasive MRI-based technology. It is used by clinicians and patients globally in the assessment of iron overload, and by



pharmaceutical companies in their clinical trials. FerriScan® is recognised internationally as the gold standard in liver-iron assessment. FerriScan® has US Food & Drug Administration ("FDA") regulatory clearance, as well as European (EU) CE Mark and Australian TGA regulatory clearances.

Thalassemia is an inherited genetic blood disorder in which the body makes an abnormal form of hemoglobin. This results in excessive destruction of red blood cells and can lead to anemia. As a result, these patients require frequent blood transfusions and suffer subsequent iron overload in their body which requires chelator drugs and therapy to manage. It is estimated that over 350 million people globally carry one or more of the thalassemia genes.

### About Hangzhou Zede Pharma-Tech Co., Ltd.

Zede Pharma-Tech is a Chinese pharmaceutical company founded in 2013 at Future Science & Technology City in Hangzhou, focused on developing innovative new drugs. In 2017 its first oral-iron-chelator for Thalassemia treatment was granted Phase I, II and III, clinical trial permission. At the same time, the company initiated preclinical research on new chelation treatments for Myelodysplastic Syndrome ("MSD") and Parkinson's Disease. Its Phase I clinical trial for Thalassemia treatment is now ready to step into Phase II for research on pharmacodynamics and dosage.

Zede Pharma-Tech has won several prestigious awards including the Zhejiang Provincial high-tech small-to-mid sized company award, Key Stake Company award by Hangzhou Future Sci-tech City, Hangzhou Blue Plan Award, and the Key Stake Startup Company Founded by Overseas Returnee Award by Hangzhou City. The company has several strategic partnerships including with the College of Pharmaceutical Science ("CPS") at Zhejiang University, and with King's College London.

CEO of Zede Pharma-Tech, Dr. Zudong Liu, has a Ph.D. from the College of Pharmaceutical Science at King's College London majoring in medicinal chemistry focusing on new drug development for iron-overload related to Thalassemia, MSDs or Parkinson's Disease. He has published over 50 papers and he established and directed Natural Medicine Research (UK) and participated in international standardization of TCM and oversaw new drug development. Later, Dr. Liu founded Dr. China (Great Chinese Herbal Medicine Co., Ltd.) which was acquired by Golden Meditech Holdings Limited (HKSE 00801).

This announcement has been authorised for release in accordance with the delegated authority of the Board of Directors of Resonance Health Ltd.



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#### **About Resonance Health**

Resonance Health is an Australian healthcare technology and services company, specialising in the development and delivery of noninvasive medical imaging software and services.

The Company's products are used globally by clinicians in the diagnosis and management of human diseases and by pharmaceutical and therapeutic companies in their clinical trials. Resonance Health has gained endorsement by leading physicians worldwide for consistently providing high quality quantitative measurements essential in the diagnosis and management of diseases.

Resonance Health's dedication to scientific rigour and quality management has enabled it to achieve regulatory clearances for a range of Software as a Medical Device (SaMD) products in the USA, Europe, and Australia and to proudly carry ISO 13485 certification for the design and manufacture of medical devices. Some of the SaMD products incorporate the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI):

- **FerriScan**® a core-lab product that provides accurate measurement of liver iron concentration through non-invasive MRI-based technology, for use in the assessment of individuals with iron overload conditions. Internationally recognised as the gold standard in LIC assessment.
- **FerriSmart**® an Al-driven non-invasive MRI-based device for the automated real-time measurement of liver iron concentration in patients.
- **HepaFat-Al®** an Al-driven non-invasive MRI-based device for the automated real-time multimetric measurement of liver fat in patients, for use in the assessment of individuals with confirmed or suspected fatty liver disease.
- LiverSmart® an Al-driven non-invasive MRI-based multi-parametric device that combines FerriSmart® and HepaFat-Al® into a consolidated report that provides accurate measurement of liver iron concentration and liver fat.
- CardiacT2\* the most widely accepted MRI-based method for assessing heart iron loading. Resonance Health offers a dual analysis of FerriScan® and CardiacT2\*. CardiacT2\* has regulatory clearance from the TGA and CE Mark.

The Company has an active development pipeline of additional medical imaging analysis products and services, including, **LungSmart**® and **Alert-PE™**, Al tools for the automated review of chest CT scans of patients with cystic fibrosis and suspected pulmonary embolism, respectively.

Stakeholders including clinicians and patients are encouraged to follow Resonance Health on FaceBook, LinkedIn and Twitter.





