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Today we welcome Michael Thurn, CEO and managing director of Neurizon Therapeutics, an Australian clinical stage biotech company focused on developing treatments for neurodegenerative diseases with their lead program aimed at ALS. Their main drug candidate NUZ001 is being developed as a potential therapy to slow or alter the progression of ALS by targeting underlying cellular pathways involved in neurodegeneration. Welcome, Michael. Thank you for visiting us in New York.

Michael Thurn
Hi Cecilia

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So, for listeners who may be hearing about Neurizon for the first time, what is Neurizon's mission and what problem are you ultimately trying to solve?

Michael Thurn
We're looking to become a leader in the treatment or developing new treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. And the problem that we're trying to solve at the moment is really all about, to a certain degree, anti-aging. So, as we age, there is a process that occurs in our brains and our neurons. Where there's a buildup of toxic protein that leads to a number of aging neurodegenerative diseases. One of those is the one that we're studying very closely in what's called Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. But there are also other neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, Huntington's disease, and also Parkinson's disease, that are all related in terms of this toxic buildup of protein that occurs in the neurons that leads to neuronal degeneration and the onset of these age-related diseases.

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So, what makes NUZ different from other ALS therapies being studied?

Michael Thurn
So, we're really attacking the core of the problem. So, in 97% of the cases, as I mentioned before, there's a ah toxic buildup of protein that's associated with all these neurodegenerative diseases. So, there's a common underlying pathology. It's just a different protein. So in ALS, it's a protein called TDP43. And we have a way of removing those toxic buildup of proteins through a natural cellular process

called autophagy. And autophagy is what all our cells use to remove metabolic waste. In this case, neurons, when there's a toxic buildup of a protein, misfolded protein like TDP43, we can use this drug to stimulate that natural cleaning process, autophagy, to remove that toxic buildup of protein.

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What has been the biggest challenge so far to getting NUZ to this stage, and what did you learn from it?

Michael Thurn
So the biggest challenge for us has been around being able to move into a clinical situation where we can accelerate drug development. Now, this is a rare disease, ALS. We have an orphan drug designation here in the US. It's a rare disease. So, getting access to patients and being able to test the drug in a clinical setting to ultimately lead to a drug approval is difficult for an Australian company. We've been fortunate enough to be accepted into the prestigious Healy ALS platform trial which is ran out of mass general here in the US in Boston. It was put together about five years ago by a leading group of neurologists in close association with the FDA all around developing the most promising ALS drug candidates in an accelerated fashion to be able to make it available to people as soon as possible. So that's been the most difficult challenge for us, being in a small Australian biotech, to be noticed in the US, to be accepted into a platform where we are able to bring our discovery, our drug candidate, to as many patients as possible in as quick as possible time.

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And so, what are some of the positive feedback that you have from ALS patients and families and the other diseases that you guys are discovering?

Michael Thurn
So obviously to get into the Healy ALS platform trial, we've already been able to test our drug in patients in Australia. So, we conducted a phase one clinical study in Australia that was funded by the major non-for-profit organization in Australia called Fight MND. They sponsored that trial. In that trial, we tested our drug in 12 patients with ALS. And what we found was that after the first 12 months, that was the time period for the phase one study, was a dose escalation study. All the patients wanted to stay on drug. So, we extended that out into an open label

extension study. The results of those combined two phase one studies, so the dermis escalation that went for 12 months and then subsequently another open label extension study was that we have a very safe drug. A very safe drug that was continued to be administered to these patients orally for a period of over two and a half years. In fact, we still have patients that are on drug at the moment for three years. That's been a significant benefit in terms of the patients, but also significant benefit in turn in terms of being able to show that the drug has a very tolerable safety profile, and we've been also able to see signals of efficacy in those 12 patients. And the way that we do that is we can compare to a natural history database and one of the best databases out there where we can compare and match our patients to patients in that natural history database is again in Boston. It's a database called the PROACT database and when we match our patients to see how they would have performed if they weren't on drug to that natural history database, we're seeing a slowing in the rate of these disease progression by over 30%. We're seeing slowing in the rate of loss of respiration, which is a very important secondary measure for the FDA and very important for patients as well, of over 40%. But the real kicker from that comparison to the PRO-ACT database is that we're doubling life extension for the patients that received NUZ001. So, we're in a very good position at the moment. We have some very strong early preclinical and also clinical data from these phase one studies that we've conducted, which ultimately obviously led to our acceptance in the Healy platform trial.

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Excellent. So, what milestones can we look out for in 2026 for the company?

Michael Thurn
So, 2026, we're a matter of weeks away from starting our regimen in the Healy ALS platform trial. So, by the end of February, we're hoping to have our first patient dosed. And then that really sets the journey from there through to top line results, data readout from our regimen in the Healy platform trial which will be over an 18 - 20 month period. So, come the middle of 2027 we hope to have assembled the very positive top line data results from our regimen that we can then take to a regulator like the FDA to seek accelerated approval. During that time period there will be a number of updates that will be provided along the lines of 100% recruitment completed in the study, complete treatment of the treatment phase of the study which goes for 36 weeks or 9 months and then obviously the top line results. So, over the next 18 to 20 months there will be a number of news

flow items that comes out.

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Well, Michael, it's been a pleasure to host you here in New York in our offices. And thanks so much for your time today. My pleasure. Narizan Therapeutics trades on our OTCQB venture market under the ticker N- U-Z-T-F.

Michael Thurn
Thank you. Absolutely.

OTC Markets
Thanks so much.

**This is an autogenerated transcript and may contain typos.*