

OTC Markets Group

From OTC Markets global headquarters in Lower Manhattan, you are listening to the OTCQB Podcast, featuring the innovators and entrepreneurs behind the companies that trade on the Venture Market.

Joining us today is Tim Jones, the President and CEO of RespireRX Pharmaceuticals that trades at our OTCQB Venture Market under the ticker "RSPI." Based in New Jersey, RespireRX is a biopharmaceutical company focused on the discovery and development of novel drug therapies for the treatment of psychiatric and neurological disorders including sleep apnea, ADHD, epilepsy, spinal cord injury, and other neurological orphan diseases. Tim, thanks so much for joining us today.

Tim Jones

Hi, Cecilia, it's my pleasure to be invited here today and I'm very much looking forward to our discussion.

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Excellent. So to start, tell us a bit about your professional background and how you got involved with RespireRX.

Tim Jones

Sure, of course. I'm currently serving as the CEO and President of RespireRX Pharmaceuticals, and I also represent several boards in either full voting or advisory capacities as well. My career path has spanned almost three decades in fact within the pharma and biotech spaces within both the private and public sectors. RespireRX was I guess a key customer in my previous employment, Noramco, which is an SK Capital-owned company with whom a strategic supply agreement for dronabinol API was forged for our obstructive sleep apnea product. So that was really the spark, I would say, that led to an advisory board seat and ultimately the CEO position which commenced in Q2 2020. So I've worked in the pharma space for around 27 years and across three continents, Europe, North America, and Asia, ranging across companies, Fresenius Kabi, Johnson Matthey, Eli Lilly, Noramco, to Par Endo Pharmaceuticals. So I've got extensive bandwidth across brand and generic pharma life cycles, a strong science and compliance background, but really

the last 17 years focused on high value strategic commercial deal structures in both API and finished product, everything from joint ventures, in out licensing, to exclusive cost profit share supply chain contracts. And I also specialize in control substances business development, including cannabinoids. And last but not least, at RespireRX itself, my focus has surrounded fundraising strategies specializing in developing high net worth strategic value adding partnerships.

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Talk about your drug technology platforms and why you've chosen to focus on a selective group of conditions and disorders.

Tim Jones

That's a great question. So, we currently have two distinct business units, one housing our cannabinoids products and IP which we call ResolutionRx, and the other, our AMPAkinetics and GABAkinetics neuromodulators and IP platform and business unit which we've called EndeavourRx. So we're specializing in the development of novel drugs for the treatment of various neurological and psychiatric disorders. Our mission though is to develop breakthrough drugs to modify neurotransmission and create advanced treatments for disorders with high unmet needs affecting millions and millions of people worldwide. These include obstructive sleep apnea, ADHD, pharmaco-resistant epilepsy, chronic neuropathic pain and inflammatory pain, and as you mentioned, recovery from spinal cord injury, which we call SCI. But more specifically if we delve into our product portfolio, within our ResolutionRx cannabinoids business unit, our lead product, dronabinol, for the treatment of obstructive sleep apnea, there's really no approved drugs available for OSA on the marketplace today worldwide.

Tim Jones

We have successfully completed phase 2B with phase three ready pending completion of a new superior formulation and an IND meeting with the FDA. And we also have broad enabling patents applied for dosage and novel cannabinoid formulations applicable to other indications as well as OSA which would take us all the way through 2042. In terms of our neuromodulators housed under EndeavourRx, specifically the AMPAkinetics, we have three successful phase 2A trials for our candidates, CX1739 and CX717, a phase 2A ready for spinal cord injury and a phase 2B ready for ADHD. And then last

but not least, our lead candidate, KRM281, which is our lead GABA_A receptor agonist compound, it's efficacious in multiple animal models of treatment-resistant epilepsy and chronic neuropathic pain. It's shown efficacy in isolated brain slices from epileptic patients, and the lead compound is drugable and ready for pre-clinical development. So we're extremely excited about that particular candidate.

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So Tim, as you mentioned, RespireRX has a very novel approach to drug treatments. How has this helped your competitive advantage in the biotechnology space?

Tim Jones

Well, I would say that we've afforded a huge amount of resource evaluating existing drugs in our therapeutic areas of focus, always with the patient in mind as our priority. We've looked at drugs, both those commercially approved in the market, but those still in clinical trials with a view to developing our own superior drug candidates with improved target engagement and efficacy, and with ideally significantly reduced or even no side effects. For OSA in particular, there's currently no approved drug available, as I mentioned, and until we commercialize that drug candidate, it really remains a distinct possibility that people are left with less than ideal alternatives such as CPAP devices, dental implants, or even surgery, none of which are guaranteed to work, and in the case of CPAP, has a huge patient dropout rate. With respect to our AMPA_A receptor agonist and GABA_A receptor agonist treatments, these are intended to be softer and gentler on the patient, highly efficacious, but with few or no side effects, and in the case of our candidates for ADHD and neuropathic pain, without the habit-forming traits and, sorry, debilitating side effects of some controlled substances, including opioids.

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What milestones are you anticipating for RespireRX in 2022?

Tim Jones

So, in the very near term, we plan to create two distinct and legally separate subsidiaries under RespireRX, one housing our cannabinoids products which we're going to call ResolutionRx, and the other one, our neuromodulators

which we're calling EndeavourRx. There are several advantages to separating these platforms formally into newly formed subsidiaries, including but not limited to optimizing their asset values through separate finance channels, but also making them more attractive for capital raising as well as for strategic deal making, with respect to specific portfolio short term milestones, let's take a look at ResolutionRx, our lead product, dronabinol, for obstructive sleep apnea. In the short term, we plan to complete the proprietary formulation work, perform PK studies with that new formulation, enact more patent filings in parallel, coordinate an IND meeting with the FDA, and complete our phase three design. With respect to our neuromodulators within the EndeavourRx business unit, and specifically our AMPAkines, we plan to initiate a spinal cord injury phase 2A study. And then last but not least, our GABAkines, our lead compound, KRM281, we plan to complete the preclinical development, commence phase one studies, broaden our patent portfolio and secure grant funding if possible.

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So Tim, talk about the global market opportunities for your portfolio products.

Tim Jones

So the global market opportunities are expansive. If we take ResolutionRx housing our lead candidate, dronabinol, for obstruct sleep apnea, it's a potential multi-billion dollar market with no approved drugs available in the marketplace today. There's an estimated 30 million US patients and around 28 million in the UK and Germany combined. So our new superior formulation offers the potential for improved efficacy and expanded range of indications. And the new proprietary formulation also creates opportunities for broadening our IP and strengthens barriers to generic market entry. Then if we take EndeavourRx and more specifically our spinal cord injury candidate, our AMPAkine, there's an estimated 288,000 patients in the US alone, and it's a multi-hundred million dollar market. For ADHD, again, it's another multi-billion dollar market dominated right now by habit-forming scheduled drugs, which ours are not. Then last but not least, GABAkines for epilepsy, again, a multi-billion dollar market. Patients become resistant to existing therapies that produce multiple side effects, some debilitating, ours would not afford those traits. And chronic pain, again, a multi-billion dollar market dominated by controlled drugs including opioids.

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So in conclusion, how would you summarize your corporation in a few sentences?

Tim Jones

Well, I would say that our assets are highly desirable advancing clinical programs and our path to state expanding, we have a diverse portfolio of novel products across multiple therapeutic categories and indications. We offer a broad flexibility in identifying unique investment structures, including for our strategic partners, they're afforded the opportunity to share in the financial growth from early stage clinical to commercialization. And then I have to mention that we do have a world class management team and board of directors, and an exemplary regulatory and financial compliance history with the government agencies.

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RespireRX has been trading on the OTCQB Venture Market for over five years. How does our market continue to help with your US investor relations strategy?

Tim Jones

The OTCQB Venture Market really through its breadth and depth of reach has provided us, RespireRX, with a contemporaneous level of exposure that has enabled us to maintain healthy levels of trading, even while subject to some periods of volatility. It's a platform that captures our key press releases and keeps institutional and retail investors surprised by our key milestones and exciting developments. The high standards required to maintain a presence in the OTC Markets just naturally creates opportunities with reputable investors and potential partners.

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Well, Tim, it's been a pleasure speaking with you, thanks so much for your time today.

Tim Jones

Many thanks indeed. And I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank

shareholders and investors for their continued confidence and support, to the broader RSPI team for their herculean efforts over the last year. We anticipate exciting times ahead of us and would encourage new and existing investors to follow our progress over the next several months on social media and via our press releases posted on our website, respirerx.com

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RespireRX trades under the symbol RSPI on our OTCQB Venture Market.

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