OTC Markets Group:

Joining us today is Gregory McKee, the CEO of Tryp Therapeutics that trades on our OTCQB Venture Market under the ticker TRYPF. Tryp Therapeutics is a pharmaceutical company focused on identifying and developing clinical stage compounds for the treatment of rare and other diseases with high unmet medical needs through regulatory pathways. Greg, thanks so much for joining us today.

Gregory McKee:

Happy to great to be here Cecilia.

OTC Markets Group:

So Greg, tell us about your leadership experience in the biotech and life sciences space and how you got involved with Tryp.

Gregory McKee:

Yeah, happy to, I grew up in a small town in central Washington and my father was a physician. So I've always had a deep interest in the life science space postgraduate school at Wharton. And after an extensive amount of time in Japan, I decided that I wanted to kind of turn my career into the life science space. And I ended up joining a company called Genzyme corporation up in Boston, Massachusetts. I got recruited by Henry Tamir. Who's a CEO at the time and incredibly passionate individual in a company that was developing compounds for orphan indications for young children with genetic diseases. And, and it was just such an incredible experience to watch the life changing of impact of new Therapeutics when they come to market. So I was really hooked from that point forward. And at that time we were launching the product in Japan. So I helped actually do that since I speak Japanese and spent so much time into Tokyo, I was able to help get it approved there. And then I was asked to go to Singapore and do the same thing to, and get the drug approved in all these other markets in Southeast Asia, like Taiwan and, and Korea and mainland China and other places. So I kind of cut my teeth on the commercial realm in that space. And then I was really interested in learning a lot more about drug development itself. And I ended up joining an early stage gene therapy company in the bay area called VALIS, where I headed up business development. And that was just such an exciting time. It was right, sort of at the pinnacle of the.com era biotech was just kind of emerging as the next major wave of new companies. We are working this cutting edge technology called gene therapy for both melanoma and cardiovascular disease. And we are working on a number of large pharmaceutical partnerships like with Behringer Ingelheim and a couple other organizations. So it was just a thrilling time, great place to be. And I really began to understand how corporate development worked, but it was still really itching to frankly lead a company. In 2003, I got recruited into another early-stage drug company in Southern California called invent a biopharmaceuticals

in that company. I was able to relatively quickly move up through the ranks. I started as vice president of corporate development working on our collaboration with Roche pharmaceuticals in this immunotherapy product that was targeting cervical dysplasia, which is an HPV derived disease with huge unmet need. We had a therapeutic vaccine that had been developed at MIT that we were commercializing. And it was a just a really breakthrough technology. It was in the middle of this deep research project with a seat at the table as head of business development, which was a very exciting role. And six months into that our CFO and the CEO at the time came to me and said, hey, you're Wharton grad. Why don't you step in and be the chief financial officer of this public company? And I gotta say I was pretty nervous about taking that position at that time in my career, but it ended up being a real game changer. I got access to all of our investors. We were a public up on the Toronto exchange and looking to do a crossover round in the United States. I got access to all the investors and really enjoyed, frankly talking to investors about our programs. We raised a lot of capital for that company, which was experience. And then ultimately the board asked me to step been as chief executive, at which point I had a, the kind of the first opportunity to see how drug companies work from a 360 degree view. And that was just such an incredible experience. You know, frankly, just being in the trenches day to day with our scientists working through all the different challenges that we had. So I've really been quite fortunate in a number of different ways to, to work inside interesting organizations and life science space, and then to cap all that I spent the last seven years really in two different areas, one running the startup accelerator, which gave me an incredible playbook in terms of how the best entrepreneurs get their companies up and running. And it also gave me an opportunity to watch and also support companies raise capital across a number of different industry sectors outside of the life science space. And then in the last couple years a business partner and I worked to put together a venture fund. So I spent two years working the venture field overall the start of accelerator and the time of the venture fund, I made 13 private investments in companies including about half of those in the life science field. So I was able to pick up a lot of expertise around in investing along the way. So all that experience really has kind of come to a nice, a natural tr transition in the last few months or so. Back in December of, of last year, towards the end of the year, I ran into a very good friend of mine who had founded Tryp Therapeutics. He was looking to add people to his board. He wanted to bring some capital formation expertise. He wanted to bring some expertise onto the board with individuals that had experience up in the Canadian Exchange and then knew the life science space. And he asked me to join the board. So I joined the board a month later, I became chairman and then it became pretty clear that we needed new leadership in the organization. And I been the CEO about three weeks ago. So I've been just running flat out since the beginning of the year, but it's been a really exciting run. And I think a real natural kind of next step for me and a great opportunity to apply a lot of the skills I learned along the way.

OTC Markets Group:

Excellent. So talk about your drug development programs and the types of disorder you are currently targeting.

Gregory McKee:

Sure. So Tryp is working in, in the psilocybin space. That's our primary chemistry that we're utilizing. It's a natural compound. Of course that's been around for quite a long time and has an incredible history of use. It's got a lot of research that's been done, you know and it's got a significant safety profile and there's a lot of signals that there's efficacy in the marketplace. So we're excited that we've had an opportunity to collaborate with a number of different academic institutions and to begin to develop our PFN program as we call it for a number of different disease areas including two main categories. The first is chronic pain. And that includes diseases such as fibromyalgia complex, regional pain syndrome, Phantom limb syndrome and many others. There's probably about a half, a dozen or more diseases in that space that, that we're looking at the initial indication will likely be fibromyalgia, but we're excited to press into a number of other different areas besides that the second area that we're developing the drug for is in eating disorders, which is obviously a major challenge here in particular in the United States.

Gregory McKee:

And we're working with the University of Florida with Jennifer Miller in particular who leads a group there around diseases in that space that includes some other overeating disorders. And that also includes some orphan indications such as a disease. And this is a disease that primarily affects children. They're genetically predispose to have this eating disorder and that we think there's a potential to apply this chemistry and potentially solve their issues. So those are the two main programs. We think there's a lot of other areas that we might continue to develop the drug for down the down the road. But for right now, we're primarily focused on eating disorders and chronic pain.

OTC Markets Group:

Tell us about your business strategy and patent portfolio and the current progress you've had with scientific collaborations and clinical activities.

Gregory McKee:

Yeah, so our business strategy is you know, very much geared towards driving the company into clinical studies to complete phase two trials at which point we'd have additional safety information. And what we hope will be statistically significant efficacy data, right? Showing utility or showing positive outcomes of our chemistry in these

disease states, at which time we'll do one of a couple different things. Very likely what we'll do with, with some of our programs is that we will license those programs to large pharmaceutical companies like a Roche, like a Behringer Ingelheim, like an Eli Lilly or others who may have interest in commercializing this down the road. So I think part of our early BA early stage business strategy and complete partnerships like that. We will also consider commercializing certain products on our own part of our strategy is to target what are known as orphan indication. So these are disease states with fewer numbers of patients, of course. And we think that there's a possibility that we could actually commercialize launch and market those products on our own with a very small sales force, very similar to what we did at gen em corporation when I worked for them. So that's our primary business strategy. We think ultimately, it's likely a trade sale into a major pharma company, but we certainly want to have the wherewithal and certainly are keeping our options open to potentially develop and commercialized product on our own, of course, along the way, we're adding a lot of intellectual property patent and patent applications to our portfolio, we've already got two provisional patents. One in particular, we just filed back in March of this year, which will be our primary focus will work to convert that into a P C T over the next 12 months. And then we also expect to have additional filings over the next coming months and years as we identify new areas of unique aspects of our product, a lot of our IP, because this is a known chemistry is focused on manufacturing, downstream, fill, finish activities and formulation root of administration, and dosing. We think there's a lot of work to be done in this field around better understanding of the right types of doses to give to patients at the moment. Most companies are using a single formulation. That's an oral tablet of 25 milligrams. So it's one dose for all the patients. And there's a lot of variability, a lot of challenges with that. And we think there's a lot of room for improvement. And in terms of our progress, we've got another part of our strategy is to collaborate with academic institutions that have great expertise in these different disease states. We've already announced a collaboration with Jennifer Miller. As I mentioned before at the University of Florida, we're in deep conversations with a number of other academic institutions that will be announcing shortly. And that includes a major university in the Midwest, two major universities in the state of California, one in Southern California, one in Northern California, as well as a significant academic institution in the UK. All of whom I think are well regarded, all of whom host a number of the top researchers in this field and, and were frankly very grateful for the opportunity to work with them and collaborate in these disease states to eventually bring treatments to these patients, we're working with them to drive our products into clinical studies. We expect to announce at least two phase two, a clinical studies sometime this year. And we're working really sort to get those compounds into the clinic as soon as feasible.

OTC Markets Group:

Greg. So give us a background about the regulatory landscape and public opinion and how that's changed in recent years on the acceptance of psychedelics as medical treatments.

Gregory McKee:

Yeah. You know, it's a really interesting field that we're working in, right? Because you knows an unusual situation where there's a lot of historical use of course, of psychedelics back in the sixties and seventies many years back. Right. Well, before our time. And then through that process psychedelics overall were designated schedule one compounds and now regulated, which creates some interesting regulatory obstacles to kind of navigate through. After that time, certain universities such as John's Hopkins university, Yale university, NYU and others began to do a lot of deep research around applications of different psychedelic compounds into FDA oriented diseases. And through that what has emerged is an incredible pro you know, safety profile of the compound. There's also been certain clinical studies that have been run to demonstrate potential utility of these compounds. And we think all that really is a, a fun backdrop from which to, to develop these compounds for future use and to accelerate their, their movement into clinical studies. What's interesting is I think that all that data over the last call it 20 plus years or so I think finally has kind of come to a head and has really begun to be coming to the mainstream of scientific research. And there's now many different institutes that are getting created at universities to study psychedelics and their potential utility as all the scientists and, and people in our industry are trying to find new chemistries and new biologics that have great safety profile and potential efficacy and a lot of diseases that, where there's really great unmet need. And a lot of people, I think, believe that that now is the time that psychedelics will really kind of become mainstream and potentially kind of bear that many people believe they have to treat a lot of these unmet needs. So I think that really the attitudes have changed significantly. Some of the regulatory framework also seems to be shifting a little bit state by state. But what we'll see how that kind of, that that goes, but we're certainly excited to be at what we believe is really the very early stages of unique sub-industry within the biotech space.

OTC Markets Group:

What milestones and partnerships do you anticipate for Tryp in 2021 and beyond?

Gregory McKee:

You know, this year is gonna be, I think, a really exciting and monumental for the company. We've got a number of different milestones teed up. One of them I just mentioned a minute ago, which is we expect to initiate at least two phase two clinical studies. So we're very excited about that. That's gonna be a major push for us along the way will announce a number of different academic collaborations. A couple of which we're already in deep discussions and negotiations around. And so we expect to be able to announce those relatively soon as well. Thirdly, we will be announcing additional work on the manufacturing front we expect to have what is called non GMP, batches engineering kind of preliminary batches of our API ready for use in preclinical studies. We also anticipate then having formal GMP runs completed and GMP material available for clinical use, which is a big step. And then we'll also be making some announcements about where we are with our specific route of administration and final drug product. So all those will be a series of different announcements and milestones that will hit or in the manufacturing area. And then lastly, we'll also, as I mentioned a minute ago, we'll be making certain announcements about new IP that we're filing related to some of the milestones that we've hit in the manufacturing space. So those are some of the big areas that we anticipate. A lot of progress around this next year

OTC Markets Group:

Tryp began trading on the OTCQB Venture Market earlier this year and is also trading on the CSE. How does cross trading on the OTCQB Market enhance your strategy in the U.S. and internationally?

Gregory McKee:

Right. I think as, as most people are aware, we started trading on the Canada Stock Exchange this last December, and that gave us a great opportunity to kind of get our early capital and get started. And there's a lot of enthusiasm for early stage companies in that marketplace. And in particular, there's some similarities that certain investors see relative to the psychedelic space as compared to kind of the success that they saw in the cannabis space. I think that sort of gave us a bit of a great head start at the same time. We're really excited to tap the investor base here in the United States. And our listing on the OTCQB really kind of has enabled a couple of different things. One it's a foothold for us to tap retail investors and early investors in this space and this drip pool of capital down here in the U.S. Second of all we believe this is an important milestone along the way to access life science focused institutional investors, who ultimately we think will be the financial backbone of the company. And those are investor groups that have deep expertise in drug development and drug discovery, and typically have analysts with PhD degrees in the industry that can really dive into the details of the company. So our OTCQB listing frankly, has been a really

important step for us this year. And we're quite excited to have that completed and very excited to continue to educate and inform investors about the company's development as we move forward.

OTC Markets Group:

Well, thanks so much for your time today, Greg, it's been a great pleasure to talk with you.

Gregory McKee:

Thank you, Cecilia. Great to be here with you.

OTC Markets Group:

Tryp Therapeutics trades under the symbol TRYPF on our OTCQB Venture Market.

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