

Allied increases stake in herpes vaccine firm

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Singapore: Australia's Allied Healthcare has increased its holding in the platform vaccine development company, Coridon vaccines, from 44 percent to 50.10 percent. Coridon is presently being led by Professor Ian Frazer.

The increase follows the recent milestone announcement that the genital herpes (HSV-2) vaccine, which is being developed by Professor Frazer, is entering its first human trials. The phase I trial of the novel HSV-2 vaccine is aimed at both preventing the spread of the virus and offering a treatment to those infected.

Professor Frazer is also developing a next-generation therapeutic vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV) and associated cancers and this is also showing significant and positive progress, said Allied Healthcare Group CEO Lee Rodne.

"Both herpes and HPV are highly prevalent viral infections for which there is no therapeutic vaccine or cure available and as such represents a high global demand and clinical need for new novel vaccines and improved treatments," Mr Rodne said. "We continue to see exceptionally strong results and the delivery of key milestones from Professor Frazer's work in this space, and so we are driven to further invest and commercialise this high-potential technology."

Allied Healthcare Group and Prof Ian Frazer are developing the next-generation therapeutic vaccines, which are designed to not only prevent the spread of disease but to also treat those already infected. There is no limit on who can benefit from a therapeutic vaccine and it could be applied to a broad range of viral diseases and cancers.