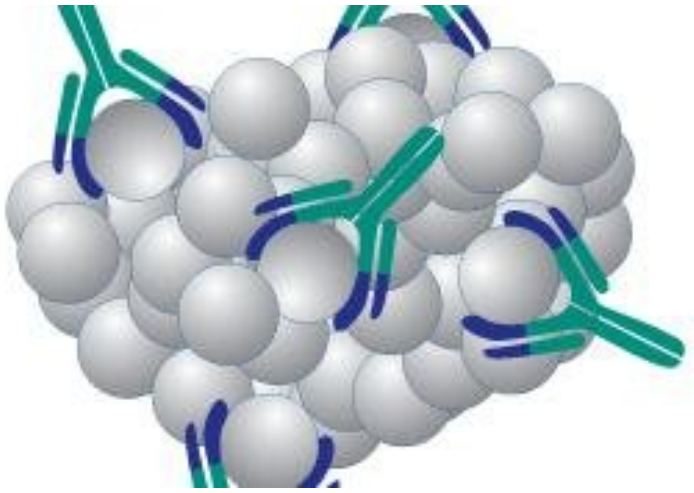
BioSpectrum the business of Bio & Health Sciences ASIA EDITION

Nektar's therapy helps the body kill its own cancer

09 April 2013 | News | By BioSpectrum Bureau



Singapore: US-based Nektar Therapeutics has revealed positive preclinical data for NKTR-214, a novel cancer immunotherapy which targets the IL-2 receptor complex.

NKTR-214 is a new immunocytokine that is being developed as a potential treatment for multiple cancers. NKTR-214 targets the IL-2 receptor complex through selective receptor binding to the IL2RÎ² subtype. Activation of the IL2RÎ² subtype promotes tumor killing by the body's own immune system.

"We are extremely encouraged by the dramatic efficacy observed with NKTR-214 treatment in an aggressive and resistant preclinical model of melanoma," said Dr Stephen Doberstein, senior VP and CSO, Nektar Therapeutics.

He added, "NKTR-214 is specifically designed to harness the potent immunostimulatory effects of the IL-2 receptor complex while minimizing the immunosuppressive effects that have greatly limited the efficacy of the native IL-2 protein."

NKTR-214 targets a receptor subtype in the tumor microenvironment while avoiding the unwanted effects from off-target receptor binding. NKTR-214 also has improved pharmacokinetics and enhanced tumor penetration which allow for a ten-fold reduction in overall dosing. The team is excited about the potential of NKTR-214 to emerge as a powerful new immunotherapy in the fight against cancer.