

## Being based in Australia where there is a Regulatory and Taxation Environment to Facilitate Timely and Cost-Effective Drug Development, gives Senz Oncology an Edge in Developing New Cancer Therapies

**Biotechnology  
Cancer  
(Private)**

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**Anthony Filippis, PhD MBA  
Executive Director**

**BIO:**

Anthony is an experienced biotechnology business executive with a wealth of experience in business and corporate development. He is Co-Founder and Executive Director at Senz Oncology Pty Ltd.

Previously, Anthony has worked as Vice President, Business Develop-

ment for a number of ASX-listed and private biotechnology companies and has held positions at top-tier management consulting firm KPMG, and the Victorian State Government (Biotechnology Commercialisation Team).

Anthony has also held a number of senior executive roles within ASX-listed and private biotechnology companies. In his role as Head of Corporate Development, at Meditech Research Limited, Anthony was involved in the successful completion of Australia's first M&A between two publicly traded biotechnology companies; Meditech Research Limited and Alchemia Limited.

Anthony received his MBA from La Trobe University and holds a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Melbourne. Anthony is also a Partner at Afandin Pty Ltd and Non-Executive Director at Qponics Limited.

**Company Profile:**

Senz Oncology is a private drug development company leveraging the Australian regulatory framework and taxation environment to conduct time and cost effective development of new cancer therapies.

**Interview conducted by:  
Lynn Fosse, Senior Editor  
CEOCFO Magazine**

**CEOCFO:** Dr. Filippis, what is the focus at Senz Oncology?

**Dr. Filippis:** The focus of Senz Oncology is on drugs that are ready to go into the clinic or require minimal preclinical development before initiation of clinical trials.

**CEOCFO:** What is it that you are working on specifically?

**Dr. Filippis:** The first product in the Senz portfolio is VAL-1000; it is an oral small molecule chemotherapeutic drug with low toxicity and a potentially novel mechanism of action. Senz, Allynce Research, Inc and their collaborators, have demonstrated a potential role for VAL-1000 in the treatment of leukemias, including acute myeloid leukemia.

**CEOCFO:** What is it that your drug can potentially do that is not available today?

**Dr. Filippis:** Activity has been observed in cell lines and in patient tumor cells with different types of genetic mutations, including difficult-to-treat mutations, such as the Flt-3 internal tandem duplication. VAL-1000 will be developed in a Phase I/II clinical study, the details of which will be announced in due course.

**CEOCFO:** What is your drug able to do to the cells?

**Dr. Filippis:** VAL-1000 is a small molecule that targets several cellular kinases, including cyclin-dependent kinases (CDK's), which are involved in the control of cell division (mitosis).

**CEOCFO:** What are some of the advantages of being based in Australia?

**Dr. Filippis:** Some of the advantage of being based in Australia is that we have a regulatory and taxation environment to facilitate time and cost-effective drug development. In particular, the Clinical Trial Notification (CTN) scheme for clinical trials and the 45% R&D Tax Incentive.

**CEOCFO:** Your website, [www.senzoncology.com](http://www.senzoncology.com), indicates 'Development that makes sense.'

What does that mean? What is different about Senz?

**Dr. Filippis:** 'Development that makes sense' refers to developing products that are directed at well-validated targets, come out of high quality teams, have good evidence of biological activity and are 'clinic-ready' or close to 'clinic-ready'. Senz is unique in that it looks to identify 'underappreciated' oncology drug candidates that have the potential to become best-in-class or first-in-class treatments for cancer patients and undertake time- and cost-effective drug development, utilizing the regulatory and taxation environment in Australia. Senz is in discussions with multiple companies, both in Australia and overseas, regarding potential drugs to add to its development model and portfolio.

**CEO CFO:** Is the biotech community in general aware of the benefits of working in Australia?

**Dr. Filippis:** Yes, I believe the biotech community in general is aware of the advantages of working in Australia. The key is convincing companies of the regulatory and taxation advantages of conducting early clinical development in Australia. For example, in the case of VAL-1000, initial clinical development will be undertaken in Australia under the CTN scheme.

When human data are available Senz and Allynce Research, Inc will file an IND with the FDA.

**CEO CFO:** That is an ambitious plan!

**Dr. Filippis:** It is ambitious, but drug development is ambitious! The Senz development model allows one; relatively quickly and cost-effectively, to determine in early clinical trials in Australia, whether a drug should progress to what could be mid-and ultimately late-stage global clinical trials. Drug development is an expensive

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business, therefore being able to determine whether a drug is worthy of moving from early-to-mid-to-late stage clinical trials as economically and quickly as possible is important.

**CEO CFO:** Is Senz Oncology funded for the development on the compound you are working with now?

**Dr. Filippis:** Yes we are. The details of the investment are not public but the financing is sufficient to complete a Phase I/II clinical trial in three leukemia indications. Details on the clinical

trial will be disclosed in the near future. However, the trial will be a typical Phase I/II oncology study, with an initial dose escalation phase followed by an expanded cohort of patients to be treated at the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) of VAL-1000.

**CEO CFO:** Why should investors and people in the biotech community look at Senz Oncology today?

**Dr. Filippis:** Senz is currently in discussions with multiple companies, regarding potential drugs to add to its development pipeline. We are looking to grow our pipeline and funding will be required to develop these drugs. Therefore we would be happy to talk to investors, companies or individuals interested in investing or developing their compounds under the Senz umbrella. Myself (ex-Mediatech Research Ltd/Alchemia Oncology Ltd) and Dr Ian Nisbet (ex-Millennium Pharmaceuticals, Inc and Mediatech Research Ltd) together with Dr Dennis Brown (who has previously founded companies such as Matrix Pharmaceuticals, Inc and ChemGenex Therapeutics, Inc) are experienced biotechnology executives and with our team have extensive experience in oncology drug development and business development.



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