

# Acasti Pharma Inc

07:15 07 Nov 2019

## Acasti Pharma edging closer to commercializing CaPre as it eyes topline clinical data for Christmas

- Seeking to commercialize CaPre, a prescription drug to treat heart disease
- First topline data from Phase 3 trials expected before Christmas
- Huge potential market in the US and beyond, which is expected to grow

### What Acasti Pharma does:

Acasti Pharma Inc (NASDAQ:ACST) (CVE:ACST) is developing a krill-oil derived prescription drug called CaPre to treat hypertriglyceridemia (high levels of triglycerides in the blood), which is known to contribute to heart disease.

In Phase 2 trials, CaPre has also shown that it not only effectively reduces triglycerides, but also has the potential to lower LDL or 'bad' cholesterol levels, raise HDL or 'good' cholesterol levels, and lower hemoglobin A1c (HbA1c) - an important biomarker of long term glucose control in diabetic patients.

In addition, Acasti says CaPre is unique from other Omega-3 drugs in that it also contains phospholipids derived from krill oil. These phospholipids not only significantly enhance the bioavailability and absorption of CaPre, but they are also the reason for the reduction in LDL cholesterol and HbA1c in diabetic patients that was reported in the phase 2 studies.

The phospholipids in CaPre act to block the synthesis and absorption of LDL cholesterol, and they also appear to improve the metabolism of glucose in patients with diabetes.

The company says none of the competitive Omega-3 therapeutic products on the market or in development can deliver all these important clinical benefits.

### How is it doing:

The last phase of clinical development of CaPre in patients with severe hypertriglyceridemia prior to potential commercialization of the drug is underway, with two Phase 3 studies and 500 patients involved.

The first trial - Trilogy One - is exclusively in the US, while Trilogy Two is in sites in the US, Mexico and Canada. Data from Trilogy One is expected before Christmas, while in mid to end January, results are set to be released from the Trilogy Two trial.

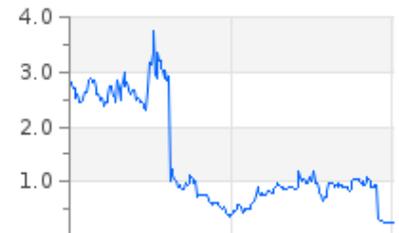
This month, Acasti announced a major milestone in the journey towards a commercial launch, as it revealed it would partner with Norwegian group Aker BioMarine for a two-year supply of krill oil, the main ingredient to make CaPre.

Notably, the agreement includes a fixed-price, securing an adequate supply to Acasti of raw krill oil through to at least

**Price:** 0.285

**Market Cap:** \$27.61 m

#### 1 Year Share Price Graph



September 2019 March 2020 September 2020

#### Share Information

**Code:** ACST

**Listing:** TSX-V

|                |             |             |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>52 week</b> | <b>High</b> | <b>Low</b>  |
|                | <b>4.05</b> | <b>0.22</b> |

**Sector:** Pharma & Biotech

**Website:** [www.acastipharma.com](http://www.acastipharma.com)

#### Company Synopsis:

*Acasti is a biopharmaceutical innovator focused on the research, development and commercialization of prescription drugs using omega-3 fatty acids derived from krill oil. Omega-3 fatty acids have extensive clinical evidence of safety and efficacy in lowering triglycerides in patients with hypertriglyceridemia.*

action@proactiveinvestors.com

mid-2021.

If Acasti gets FDA approval for CaPre, it will be the only drug company using such an amount of the oil to make a drug, so it's a big tie-up for both firms.

"We are pleased to partner with Acasti to support commercialization of the first-ever, krill oil-based, prescription drug product, which we believe has the potential to become the best-in-class omega-3 therapeutic for the management of cardiometabolic disorders," said Tim de Haas, Aker EVP of human health & nutrition.

Discussions are ongoing with multiple potential strategic partners around the world for licensing and commercialization rights and Acasti is well-funded beyond the completion of Phase 3. It had cash and equivalents of C\$25.4 million as at June 30 this year.

Acasti says the initial market potential for CaPre is compelling since there are between 3 million and 4 million patients in the US alone with severe hypertriglyceridemia.

### **What analysts say:**

In July this year, research firm Aegis Capital initiated coverage on Acasti Pharma with a 'Buy' rating and a US\$3 price target, not long after Mackie Research rated the shares as a 'Speculative Buy' with a C\$8.70 price target.

HC Wainwright & Co labelled Acasti a 'Buy' and set a US\$6 target at the end of June.

"If approved, CaPre would represent the only prescription omega-3 offering triglyceride reduction benefits of DHA, without raising Low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol," Wainwright's analysts noted.

Meanwhile, Aegis' analysts highlighted the growing prescription omega-3 market as a "compelling" category, noting pharmaceutical giants Amarin and AstraZeneca's successful trials of similar drugs.

Mackie repeated its 'Speculative Buy' stance on Acasti in August in the wake of news that main competitor Amarin had received a setback on approval for its Vascepa heart drug, with the all-powerful US Food & Drug Administration (FDA) scheduling an advisory committee meeting - which Amarin had thought they would not need - on the drug for November 14 this year.

The broker reckons the Trilogy results are very important as they could ultimately validate CaPre is the best-in-class OMG3 product by showing better blood lipid management than Amarin's Vascepa and pharma giants GlaxoSmithKline's Lovaza and AstraZeneca's Epanova.

### **What the boss says:**

Speaking to Proactive on November 5, Acasti's chief operations and scientific officer Pierre Lemieux said: "We'll be announcing top-line data before Christmas," referring to the results of the Trilogy One trial.

"In a second phase of information we'll have more what we call the secondary endpoint and the exploratory endpoint presented later on, probably in January and we are planning to present all this data all together in a scientific meeting at the end of March. We'll be very public about this data," he added.

Proactive Investors facilitate the largest global investor network across 4 continents in 4 languages. With a team of analysts, journalists & professional investors Proactive produce independent coverage on 1000's of companies across every sector for private investors, private client brokers, fund managers and international investor communities.

Contact us +44 (0)207 989 0813 [action@proactiveinvestors.com](mailto:action@proactiveinvestors.com)

### No investment advice

The Company is a publisher. You understand and agree that no content published on the Site constitutes a recommendation that any particular security, portfolio of securities, transaction, or investment strategy is suitable or advisable for any specific person. You understand that the Content on the Site is provided for information purposes only, and none of the information contained on the Site constitutes an offer, solicitation or recommendation to buy or sell a security. You understand that the Company receives either monetary or securities compensation for our services. We stand to benefit from any volume which any Content on the Site may generate.

You further understand that none of the information providers or their affiliates will advise you personally concerning the nature, potential, advisability, value, suitability or profitability of any particular security, portfolio of securities, transaction, investment, investment strategy, or other matter.

You understand that the Site may contain opinions from time to time with regard to securities mentioned in other products, including Company-related products, and that those opinions may be different from those obtained by using another product related to the Company. You understand and agree that contributors may write about securities in which they or their firms have a position, and that they may trade such securities for their own account. In cases where the position is held at the time of publication and such position is known to the Company, appropriate disclosure is made. However, you understand and agree that at the time of any transaction that you make, one or more contributors may have a position in the securities written about. You understand that price and other data is supplied by sources believed to be reliable, that the calculations herein are made using such data, and that neither such data nor such calculations are guaranteed by these sources, the Company, the information providers or any other person or entity, and may not be complete or accurate.

From time to time, reference may be made in our marketing materials to prior articles and opinions we have published. These references may be selective, may reference only a portion of an article or recommendation, and are likely not to be current. As markets change continuously, previously published information and data may not be current and should not be relied upon.

The Site does not, and is not intended to, provide investment, tax, accounting, legal or insurance advice, and is not and should not be construed as providing any of the foregoing. You should consult an attorney or other relevant professional regarding your specific legal, tax, investment or other needs as tailored to your specific situation.

In exchange for publishing services rendered by the Company on behalf of Acasti Pharma Inc named herein, including the promotion by the Company of Acasti Pharma Inc in any Content on the Site, the Company receives from said issuer annual aggregate cash compensation in the amount up to Twenty Five Thousand dollars (\$25,000).