# WILSONS ADVISORY

**Date** 27 June 2024 **Theme** Alert **Sector** Healthcare

# Company Immutep Limited (IMM)

### Recommendation

OVERWEIGHT

# TACTI-003: the real results

### Announcement Highlights

Immutep announced topline data from their TACTI-003 trial in in first line head and neck squamous cell carcinoma (1L HNSCC). We should make this very clear: from the results released today Efti in combination with pembrolizumab (KEYTRUDA) demonstrated superior objective response rates (ORR) compared to KEYTRUDA alone, regardless of level of PD-L1 expression (including Cohort A and B: CPS < 1,  $CPS \ge 1$ , CPS 1-19,  $CPS \ge 20$ ). Given the size of the trial, (n=58 and n=60 in combo and monotherapy arms respectively), we had low expectations that the trial would show statistical significance, given it was not powered to do so. The aberration of higher ORR in the KEYTRUDA monotherapy arm in the CPS 1-19 group (33.3% vs 14.5% based on historical data) does invite questions regarding if the data is 'clear enough' for accelerated approval (AA) (with a larger Phase III to be conducted alongside commercialization) however clear factors enhancing the KEYTRUDA arm (gender, smoking status, HPV status etc.) have highlighted why in this population, this may have been the case, and again not uncommon given the size of the trial. The market is also completely ignoring that Immutep have announced that data from Part B (CPS <1, 'cold tumour' cohort) has substantially improved from early data release in April - ORR of 26.9%, which already demonstrated >5x vs KEYTRUDA monotherapy in this cohort. Management's early guidance to ORR of ~34% (regardless of expression level), would suggest that this 26.9% number is >35%. The market has yet again misread Immutep and should represent an obvious buying opportunity.

### Wilsons' View

### Initial analysis

### Figure 1: Objective response rates (ORR) by PD-L1 expression levels

	Efti + pembrolizumab	Pembrolizumab monotherapy
High PD-L1 expression (CPS $\geq$ 20)	31.0% (n=29)	18.5% (n=27)
Low PD-L1 expression (CPS 1-19)	34.5% (n=29)	33.3% (n=33)
Any PD-L1 expression (CPS $\geq$ 1)	32.8% (n=58)	26.7% (n=60)
Negative PD-L1 expression (CPS < 1)	26.9%* (N=26)	N/A

\*based on April data release. Source: Immutep.

Our expectations for this study were to see benefit in one or two of the PD-L1 cohorts within Part A (PD-L1 CPS 1-19 or CPS>20) in terms of a meaningfully greater ORR response over Keytruda monotherapy – with no added safety burden. Our prior ballpark thinking was an ORR of +10% vs a historical control ballpark ORR of 20% (Keynote-048 trial ORR was 16.9%), equating to the ORR we saw in the 2L TACTI-002 trial of ~30% (of course noting differences between 1L and 2L populations). The expectation to see statistical significance was low purely based on the size of the trial and it not being adequately powered to potentially see differences.

#### Earnings implications

None. The results today were in line with expectations. To note our ROV for Efti in HNSCC incorporates 55% probability of moving to accelerated approval (incorporating a A\$35M Phase III trial which is required regardless)s. Our commercialisation timeline for HNSCC is for first revenues from FY28e noting that an AA would bring this closer and hence be beneficial to valuation.

### Investment view

We maintain our OVERWEIGHT rating and \$1.13/sh PT for Immutep.

#### Wilsons Advisory Equity Research

Analyst(s) who owns shares in the Company: n/a Issued by Wilsons Advisory and Stockbroking Limited (Wilsons Advisory) ABN 68 010 529 665 – Australian Financial Services Licence No 238375, a participant of ASX Group and should be read in conjunction with the disclosures and disclaimer in this report. Important disclosures regarding companies that are subject of this report and an explanation of recommendations can be found at the end of this document.

# Dr Melissa Benson

melissa.benson@wilsonsadvisory.com.au Tel. +61 2 8247 6639

### **Dr Shane Storey**

<u>shane.storey@wilsonsadvisory.com.au</u> Tel. +61 7 3212 1351

### Madeleine Williams

madeleine.williams@wilsonsadvisory.com.au Tel. +61 3 9640 3834

# Disclaimers and Disclosures

## | Recommendation structure and other definitions

Definitions at wilsonsadvisory.com.au/disclosures.

## Analyst certification

Each analyst of Wilsons Advisory and Stockbroking Limited (ACN 010 529 665: AFSL 238375) ("Wilsons Advisory") whose name appears in this research certifies that (1) the recommendations and opinions expressed in this research accurately reflect the analyst's personal, independent and objective views about any and all of the subject securities or issuers; (2) no part of the analyst's compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or views expressed by the analyst in the research; and (3) to the best of the analyst's knowledge, he/she is not in receipt of material non-public information about the issuer.

## Disclaimer

This document has been prepared by Wilsons Advisory. This communication is not to be disclosed in whole or part or used by any other party without Wilsons Advisory's prior written consent. All material presented in this document, unless specifically indicated otherwise, is under copyright to Wilsons Advisory. None of the material, its content, nor any copy of it, may be altered in any way, transmitted to, copied or distributed to any other party, without the prior express written permission of Wilsons Advisory. This document is not directed to, or intended for distribution to or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of or located in any locality, state, country or other jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, availability or use would be contrary to law or regulation or which would subject Wilsons Advisory to any registration or licensing requirement within such jurisdiction.

This document is being supplied to you solely for your information and no action should be taken on the basis of or in reliance on this document. To the extent that any information prepared by Wilsons Advisory contains any financial product advice, it is general advice only and has been prepared by Wilsons Advisory without reference to your objectives, financial situation or needs. You should consider the appropriateness of the advice in light of your own objectives, financial situation and needs before following or relying on the advice. You should also obtain a copy of, and consider, any relevant disclosure document before making any decision to acquire a financial product. Please refer to Wilsons Advisory's Financial Services Guide for more information: wilsonsadvisory.com.au/disclosures. Any person, before acting on any advice contained within this communication, should first consult with a Wilsons Advisory investment adviser to assess whether the advice within this communication is appropriate for their objectives, financial situation and needs. Those acting upon such information without advice do so entirely at their own risk.

This document provided by Wilsons Advisory is current as at the date of the issue but may be superseded by future publications. Wilsons Advisory assumes no obligation to update the information or advise on further developments relating to the company or companies covered in this document ("Companies") or relevant financial products. Wilsons Advisory has not independently verified all of the information given in this document which is provided at a point in time and may not contain all necessary information about the Companies. Wilsons Advisory makes no warranty, express or implied, concerning any information prepared by Wilsons Advisory. Wilsons Advisory expressly disclaims (1) any implied warranty of merchantability or (2) fitness for a particular purpose, including any warranty for the use or the results of the use of any information prepared by Wilsons Advisory with respect to their correctness, quality, accuracy, completeness, reliability, performance, timeliness, or continued availability. Wilsons Advisory's research content should be viewed as an additional investment resource, not as your sole source of information. To the fullest extent permitted by law Wilsons Advisory, its related bodies corporate and their respective officers, directors, employees or agents, disclaim any and all liabilities for any loss or damage howsoever arising in connection with the use of this document or its contents. Past performance does not necessarily indicate a financial product's likely future performance.

This document may contain "forward-looking statements". Forward-looking statements, opinions and estimates provided in this document are based on assumptions and contingencies which are outside the control of Wilsons Advisory and are subject to change without notice (including but not limited to economic conditions, market volatility and company-specific fundamentals), and therefore may not be realised in the future.

This report does not constitute an offer or invitation to purchase any securities and should not be relied upon in connection with any contract or commitment whatsoever.

# Disclaimers and Disclosures

## Regulatory disclosure

Wilsons Advisory restricts research analysts from trading in securities for which they write research. Other Wilsons Advisory employees may hold interests in the company, but none of those interests are material. Wilsons Advisory further advises that at the date of this report, neither Wilsons Advisory and Stockbroking Limited or Wilsons Corporate Finance Limited have any material interests in the company. Wilsons Corporate Finance Limited have any material interests in the company. Wilsons Corporate Finance Limited ACN 057 547 323, AFSL 238 383 acted as Joint Lead Manager and underwriter in the May 2023 pro rata accelerated non-renounceable entitlement offer and Institutional Placement of Immutep Limited Securities for which it received fees or will receive fees for acting in this capacity.

Wilsons Advisory and Stockbroking Limited may have a conflict of interest which investors should consider before making an investment decision. Wilsons Advisory and Stockbroking Limited, Wilsons Corporate Finance Limited and its related bodies corporate trades or may trade as principal in the securities that are subject of the research report. Wilsons Advisory further advises that at the date of this report, neither Wilsons Advisory and Stockbroking Limited or Wilsons Corporate Finance Limited have any material interests in the company. Wilsons Advisory restricts research analysts from trading in securities for which they write research. Other Wilsons Advisory employees may hold interests in the company, but none of those interests are material.

## | Wilsons Advisory contact

For more information please phone: 1300 655 015 or email: publications@wilsonsadvisory.com.au

