

Samumed's drug candidates are being tested in five patient studies, according to its website. It's pursuing ways to repair or regenerate human tissues through drugs that target the complex system known as the Wnt pathway—a key process in regulating cell development, cell proliferation and tissue regeneration.

Scientific understanding of this biological activity represents a major breakthrough in tackling human diseases, according to Elizabeth Vincan, a senior medical scientist at the University of Melbourne, who convened the first international meeting held in Australia on Wnt in 2014.

Voting Process

“The Wnt pathway is one way that cells communicate, and the Wnt pathway tells the cells what they are, where they need to be and what they need to become,” she says. “It’s very important in diverse human diseases, so the Wnt pathway is possibly the most interrogated pathway now in drug development.” Vincan continues: “The aging process is really just cells getting tired, and if you can rejuvenate them, you can certainly reverse the process.”

The opportunity to invest in Samumed was presented by Tan's partner Khalil Binebine, vice chairman of Vickers. Tan was immediately drawn to Samumed's diverse pipeline of drugs covering multiple therapeutic areas.