

ASX: ALA

Arovella Therapeutics Limited
ACN 090 987 250

ASX Release

7 May 2026

DR NICOLE VAN DER WEERDEN APPOINTED ACTING CEO

Arovella Therapeutics Ltd (ASX: ALA), (**Arovella** or the **Company**) advises that following the ASX announcement of 4 May 2026 that Dr Michael Baker resigned as Chief Executive Officer, the Board accepted his resignation and terminated his employment.

The Company has appointed Dr Nicole Van Der Weerden as Acting Chief Executive Officer effective today.

"I am extremely excited to lead Arovella in the lead up to our phase I trial of our lead CAR-iNKT cell therapy candidate, ALA-101. My team and I are very much up for the challenge and believe the coming period represents a significant opportunity to demonstrate the potential of our technology and to deliver meaningful value for both patients and shareholders as we advance towards the clinic." said Dr. Van Der Weerden.

Arovella's Chairman, Mr David Williams, said: "It is understating it to say we are very fortunate to have Nicole to step into the role. Last night, she led a Senior Executive strategy meeting at ISCT 2026 in Dublin and the board was invited. Nicole is very impressive and also has an impressive team with her. The Board and I will provide her with any support she requires. I am very much looking forward to working together."

Dr. Van Der Weerden's salary will be increased to match Dr Baker's salary of \$386,250 plus superannuation. Arovella will update the market on the CEO search process in due course.

Biography – Dr Nicole Van Der Weerden



Dr Van Der Weerden is an experienced biotechnology executive who joined Arovella in 2023 as Chief Operating Officer. Prior to Arovella, she spent over 18 years at Hexima Ltd in a range of roles including COO, CEO and Non-executive director. There, she was responsible for advancing Hexima's lead drug candidate through pre-clinical and clinical development. Dr. Van Der Weerden has a PhD in Biochemistry and MBA from Melbourne Business School and is Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Release authorised by David Williams, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Dr Nicole Van Der Weerden

Acting Chief Executive Officer

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About Arovella Therapeutics Ltd

Arovella Therapeutics Ltd (ASX: ALA) is focused on developing its invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cell therapy platform based on intellectual property licensed from Imperial College London to treat blood cancers and solid tumours. Arovella's lead product is ALA-101. ALA-101 consists of CAR-iNKT cells that have been modified to produce a Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) that targets CD19. CD19 is an antigen found on the surface of numerous cancer types. iNKT cells also contain an invariant T cell receptor (iTTCR) that targets glycolipid bound CD1d, another antigen found on the surface of several cancer types. iNKT cells also express NKG2D, providing a third tumour-recognition mechanism via NKG2D ligands that are upregulated on cancer cells. ALA-101 has secured Investigational New Drug (IND) acceptance from the US FDA and is progressing to a phase 1 clinical trial as an allogeneic cell therapy for the treatment of CD19+ lymphomas and leukaemias, meaning it can be given from a healthy donor to a patient. Arovella's solid-tumour candidate, ALA-105, is a cytokine-armoured CLDN18.2-directed CAR-iNKT cell product developed using CLDN18.2-targeting technology licensed from Sparx Group and incorporating Arovella's IL-12-TM cytokine-armouring technology.

For more information, visit www.arovella.com

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