

LTR hard sell not required

Shares in Brisbane's LTR Pharma have skyrocketed after a new study revealed the efficacy of its landmark erectile dysfunction product.

LTR, which is developing an intranasal spray treatment called SPONTAN, on Friday released data that is expected to support the fast-tracking of regulatory approval of the product.

The stock has more than doubled this month and jumped 40 per cent following the release of the study on Friday morning.

LTR chairman **Lee Rodne**, who was in San Diego this week at the BIO International Conference, tells City Beat that SPONTAN has an effect in as little as nine minutes with the nasal delivery bypassing the digestive system and going straight into the bloodstream.

Viagra revolutionised the treatment of erectile dysfunction a quarter of a century ago and provided millions of men with the possibility of enjoying a functional sex life. But Rodne says Viagra and its variants can take a long time to work, and cause side-effects.

"The desire for spontaneity in the enjoyment of sexual experiences is of paramount importance," says Rodne (illustrated).

"The initial results from our pivotal clinical study are encouraging."

The study compared SPONTAN to 10 mg Vardenafil tablets in 18 healthy adult male subjects aged 18-45 under fasting conditions

CITY BEAT

with
Glen Norris



The global market for ED treatments is forecast to grow from \$US3.6bn (\$5.4bn) in 2021 to US\$5.9bn (\$8.8bn) by the end of 2028. Rodne sees the little blue pills being eventually replaced by nasal sprays.

Vardenafil, the active ingredient in SPONTAN, has a proven track record as an oral medicine but delivering it as a spray was complex and drug giants such as Pfizer had tried and never managed to make it work.

Rodne, who used to work at **Andrew "Twiggy" Forrest's** Allied Medical, said SPONTAN could be available in Australia as early as this year and in the US in 2025. LTR Pharma shares were trading at 87 cents on Friday, up 234 per cent over the past month.

DEEP END

Swim parents are not happy at being charged to park their cars at next week's Olympic trials at Chandler and have let Premier **Steve Miles** know.

One parent emailed Miles on Thursday night after learning she

would be charged \$10 to park at the Brisbane Aquatic Centre at next week's titles.

"We have never been charged to park there before," the parent told City Beat.

"People are already paying a lot of money for tickets. No-one told us this was happening. It was not on the tickets (although has since been posted on the competition website).

"A lot of the swimmers competing will not go to the Olympics and their families don't have a lot of money." So far there has been no response from the Premier's office.

GREAT SCOTT

Hutchinson Construction boss **Scott Hutchinson** has been named a "Queensland Great". Announced on Queensland Day on Thursday, the award recognises Hutchinson's significant contribution to

construction and the arts.

Hutchinson was typically humble about the accolade, saying

"there are literally thousands of people at Hutchies and our music partners that make me look a lot better than I should. This award is also for them."

Hutchinson, who also founded the Fortitude Music Hall, gets his own plaque at Roma Street, joining a long list of other truly great recipients.

