

STARPHARMA GRANTED ANOTHER NANOTECHNOLOGY PATENT IN USA

Melbourne (Australia) 5 August 2002: Starpharma Pooled Development Limited (ASX:SPL) has received notification of issue of U.S. Patent Number 6426067 from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The patent is exclusively licensed by the Biomolecular Research Institute Limited to Starpharma Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Starpharma Pooled Development Limited. The inventors named on the patent, Dr Barry Matthews and Dr George Holan, are both now employed by Starpharma.

The granting of this patent titled "Angiogenic Inhibitory Compounds" provides Starpharma with broad patent rights related to dendrimer-based products that inhibit angiogenesis (blood vessel growth), a key process in cancer tumour growth and spread (metastasis).

Starpharma's dendrimers are synthetic nanoscale compounds that have been shown to inhibit angiogenesis in cell-based assays and in animal models of cancer.

Angiogenic inhibitory compounds such as Starpharma's dendrimers are targeted at both the treatment of existing cancer and the prevention of cancer metastasis. According to industry estimates (Scrip Report – Angiogenesis: A Therapeutic and Market Outlook, 2002), angiogenesis is one of the most heavily funded areas of medical research. The market potential of angiogenesis inhibitor drugs is indicated by the market value of all cancer drugs, which in 2000 was approximately US\$8 billion, growing at a rate of 10% *per annum*.

Starpharma CEO, Dr John Raff said, "The granting of this patent confirms Starpharma's broad intellectual property position in the development of dendrimer nanodrugs."

Starpharma Limited is developing dendrimers for a range of pharmaceutical applications, including angiogenesis inhibition. Starpharma's lead product in development is a topical microbicide gel targeting the prevention of the transmission of sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV/AIDS and Herpes in women.

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