



Starpharma Drug for Prevention of HIV in Phase 1 Clinical Study – Advancing to Second Stage

Melbourne (Australia), 27 April 2004: Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL) is pleased to announce that the current Phase 1 study for its investigational new drug for the prevention of HIV is advancing to the second stage in dose escalating studies underway in Adelaide, Australia.

This study, involving the administration of different formulation strengths of the investigational drug SPL7013 gel, is the first assessment of the drug's safety in humans and results will help determine the appropriate gel strengths for future clinical trials.

A group of healthy women has to date been dosed with SPL7013 at 0.5% gel strength and the placebo gel. The study remains blinded and therefore it is not known which subjects received the active at this stage.

Data relating to blood and urine chemistry, the impact of the gel on vaginal microflora, and the impact of the gel on the lining of the vagina and cervix was collected from all women in the first group. After reviewing this data, the clinical trial Drug Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) concluded that the SPL7013 gel strength could be escalated to the next level. The DSMB consists of the Principal Investigator, the study medical monitor, CMAX representatives, Starpharma representatives and Starpharma's US Agent for FDA purposes.

Today, the second stage of the Phase 1 Study is commencing. This involves administration of SPL7013 at 1.0% gel strength and placebo gel to a second group of healthy women.

The clinical trial, which is being performed under a US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Investigational New Drug (IND) application, is being conducted at CMAX, a Division of IDT Australia Ltd, in Adelaide.

Further progress updates will be made as the trial continues.

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL) is focused on the development and application of dendrimer nanotechnologies as drugs against major diseases. Starpharma's lead dendrimer product, VivaGel™ has received clearance from the US FDA for human clinical trials. VivaGel™ is a topical microbicide gel product that has been developed for women as a preventative against the sexual transmission of HIV. It is also active in animal studies for the prevention of other sexually transmitted diseases including Genital Herpes and Chlamydia. SPL also has an equity interest in a US based company – Dendritic Nanotechnologies Inc. (DNT) – established with the US pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology Dr Donald Tomalia.

CONTACTS:

Dr John Raff
Chief Executive Officer
+61 3 8532 2701

Mr Ben Rogers
Company Secretary
+61 3 8532 2702

www.starpharma.com