



STARPHARMA PROJECTS RECEIVE ARC GRANTS FOR PHARMACEUTICAL APPLICATIONS OF DENDRIMERS

Melbourne, (Australia), 6 July, 2004: Melbourne-based nanotechnology company Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL) has received peer endorsement of its dendrimer technology with the funding of two separate projects by the Australian Research Council.

The projects will advance pharmaceutical applications of SPL's dendrimer technology by clarifying how dendrimers interact with drug targets, pathogens and other biological structures. The studies will receive a total of \$440,000 over three years under the ARC scheme of competitive grants.

In one project, supercomputers will be used to model dendrimers and predict the structure of complexes formed between dendrimers and various drug targets. Dr David Chalmers and Dr Martin Scanlon of Monash University's Victorian College of Pharmacy will lead the project which Starpharma hopes will shorten the time required for discovery and development of new products based on dendrimers.

Associate Professor Clive Prestidge and Professor Hans Griesser from UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute will conduct the second project, designed to increase current understanding of how dendrimers interact with viruses, bacteria and cancer cells.

Dendrimers are small synthetic molecules being developed as potential therapies for a variety of serious human illnesses including HIV, cancer and respiratory diseases. Starpharma's lead dendrimer product, VivaGel™, is a topical microbicide for prevention of the sexual transmission of HIV. It is currently being tested in clinical trials under a US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Investigational New Drug application.

"Dendrimers present a new approach to treating and preventing a number of human conditions including sexually transmitted diseases, viral respiratory diseases, systemic viral infections and tumours," said Professor Prestidge. "Starpharma is the world leader in pharmaceutical applications of dendrimer technology and we are looking forward to working with them on this collaborative research."

About Starpharma

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 for use by women to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV. In animal studies, VivaGel was shown to be active in preventing genital herpes and *Chlamydia*. SPL also has an equity interest in US based company Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc. (DNT), established with the US pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology Dr Donald Tomalia.

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