



## **Starpharma appoints Cerylid CEO Jackie Fairley to newly created COO position**

**Melbourne, Australia, 30 March 2005** – Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX: SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) today announced that Dr Jackie Fairley will take up the newly created position of chief operating officer for the company toward the middle of 2005.

“The decision to develop the new COO role follows Starpharma's increasing focus on growth and internationalisation of the Company, and we felt that the timing was right for Starpharma to make an appointment at this level,” said Dr John Raff, CEO of Starpharma.

“Dr Fairley’s experience is an excellent match for our needs. She has worked with big pharma, held management roles in large companies, executed M&A transactions and interacted closely with institutional investors.”

Dr Fairley has more than 15 years’ experience working in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. She has held a variety of positions in business development and senior management, including as CEO and managing director of Cerylid Biosciences Limited between 2001 and 2005. She moved to Cerylid from senior roles with CSL, and later, Faulding (now Mayne Pharma).

“I have always held Starpharma’s technology in very high regard, and I was naturally attracted by the opportunity to work with one of Australia’s leading listed biotechnology companies that also has an established international presence. I look forward to making a substantial contribution to the future success of the company,” Dr Fairley said.

“Starpharma’s lead product VivaGel™ is in the advanced development phase and is receiving increasing international attention. We now have the opportunity to apply the dendrimer technology to a wide range of pharmaceutical applications. I’m sure that Dr Fairley’s pharmaceutical and business experience together with her industry contacts will prove invaluable,” Dr Raff said.

While with Cerylid, Dr Fairley was responsible for raising more than \$10 million private equity funding and had a key role in the acquisition of Kinacia Pty Ltd.

She is also a member of the Federal Government’s Pharmaceutical Industry Working Group and the Victorian Innovation Economy Advisory Board.

Dr Fairley has BSc(Hons) and Bachelor of Veterinary Science degrees from the University of Melbourne and an MBA from the Melbourne Business School where she received the prestigious Clemenger Medal. She is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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## About Starpharma

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) is leading the world in nanomedicine. Its lead product in development is VivaGel™, a vaginal microbicide gel that has been developed for women as a preventative against the sexual transmission of HIV. It has also shown activity in animal studies for the prevention of other sexually transmitted diseases including genital herpes. The Company has a broad range of opportunities arising from its innovations involving the discovery and development of pharmaceutical nanotechnology products using dendrimers and the multi-binding phenomenon of polyvalence. Development programs include multi-acting respiratory and anti-cancer applications.

Starpharma also has an equity interest in a Michigan based company – Dendritic NanoTechnologies, Inc. (DNT) – established with the US pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology Dr Donald A. Tomalia.

**Microbicides:** A microbicide inactivates, kills or destroys microbes. Microbicides may be formulated as gels, creams, sponges, suppositories or films with the purpose of reducing significantly the incidence of STDs. There are currently no vaginal microbicides on the market. They are intended for vaginal or rectal use to afford protection for varying periods, from several hours up to days. Microbicides may also be designed to have a contraceptive function by inhibiting sperm.

**Dendrimers:** Dendrimers are a type of nanoparticle. They are man-made chemicals that form tiny balls made up of a dense network of branches. Dendrimers have applications in the medical, electronics, chemicals and materials industries.

**American Depositary Receipts (ADRs):** Starpharma's ADRs trade under the code **SPHRY** (CUSIP number 855563102). Each Starpharma ADR is equivalent to 10 ordinary shares of Starpharma as traded on the Australian Stock Exchange. The Bank of New York is the depositary bank.

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