



## Starpharma Investee Company, Dimerix Bioscience, Closes Series A Financing

**Melbourne (Australia), 15 September 2005:** Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX: SPL, USOTC: SPHRY) announced today that its investee company, Dimerix Bioscience Pty Ltd, ("Dimerix") has closed a Series A financing led by venture capital firm Foundation Capital and supported by the Murdoch Westscheme Enterprise Partnership fund.

Starpharma's equity interest in Dimerix post-financing is 22%.

Dr John Raff, Starpharma's Chief Executive Officer commented "Starpharma is delighted with the progress being made by Dimerix, both in growing its business and in raising the further capital required to fund its development. This commitment by third parties is an important milestone for Dimerix."

A copy of the Dimerix release is attached.

---

### 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 infections 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 equity interests in two companies:

- Dendritic NanoTechnologies, Inc. (DNT) – established with the pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology Dr Donald A. Tomalia and based in Michigan, USA.
- Dimerix Bioscience Pty Ltd – a specialist drug development company established to commercialise unique technology developed at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research in the new field of receptor coupling, specifically G-Protein coupled receptors ("GPCRs").

**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.

### For further information:

Media <b>Rebecca Wilson</b> Buchan 02 9237 2800 / 0417 382 391 rwilson@bcg.com.au	<b>Dr John Raff</b> Chief Executive Officer +61 3 8532 2701	<b>Ben Rogers</b> Company Secretary +61 3 8532 2702 <a href="http://www.starpharma.com">www.starpharma.com</a>
--	---	---

Announcement  
15 September 2005

## Dimerix Closes Series A Financing

Dimerix Bioscience Pty Ltd today announced that it has closed a Series A financing which was led by venture capital firm Foundation Capital, and supported by the Murdoch Westscheme Enterprise Partnership fund. Dimerix is a drug development company striving to develop more effective drugs with fewer side-effects, by applying its innovative technologies to novel G-Protein Coupled Receptor (GPCR) cluster targets.

The Series A capital raising follows an earlier investment by listed nano-pharmaceutical company Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL). The proceeds of the raising will be used to accelerate the development of the Company's new compounds targeting chronic gut disorders, such as the inflammatory bowel diseases Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The Dimerix compounds, being developed in a joint venture with Starpharma, are unique because they utilise Starpharma's *dendrimer* nano-structures that enable activation of multiple receptor sites on the cell surface and are designed to have a biodistribution profile that may eliminate the side-effects that accompany all other drugs targeting this type of receptor.

"Investment by institutionally invested VC's provides a validation of the importance of our technology and the strategy that we are adopting", Dimerix CEO Matt Callahan stated, "in addition to cash, the investors add to our network of contacts and experience in growing sustainable nanotechnology and life sciences companies."

Dimerix's core business is the design of novel classes of drugs based on existing and validated compounds for well understood GPCR drug targets. This strategy reduces the development time and increases the likelihood of success during the clinical phases. The Dimerix team has world recognised experience with GPCRs which are the single most successful class of drug targets, with more than more than one quarter of the top 200 best selling drugs in 2000 targeting GPCRs.

Dimerix's *Collision* (Combinatorial Light Emission) and *FADE* (Fluorescence based Activity Detection) technologies are utilised in the drug development process and allow Dimerix to understand the importance of GPCR clusters, and to characterise and measure the effect of compounds on them in ways not possible with other technologies.

In addition to the dendrimer program, the Company's technologies are being applied to other GPCR cluster targets, including receptors associated with the progression of HIV. Dimerix is currently collaborating with the respected Burnett Institute in Melbourne to validate the discovery of a potential new mechanism for virus-host interactions, which may in turn lead to a therapy which delays the onset of AIDS. The Company intends to develop other valuable demonstrations of its unique technology capabilities through collaborations focusing on other GPCR targets.

Dimerix is the recipient of a Commercial Ready grant for the Starpharma project which is a competitive merit-based grant program managed by AusIndustry supporting innovation and its commercialisation. Dimerix is based at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research in Nedlands which is supported by sponsors including Wesfarmers Limited and Bankwest.

**Further Information:**

<b>Dimerix Bioscience Pty Ltd</b>	Matt Callahan, Chief Executive Officer, Dimerix Tel:+61 411 119 179 Email: <a href="mailto:matt@dimerix.com">matt@dimerix.com</a> Website: <a href="http://www.dimerix.com">http://www.dimerix.com</a>
-----------------------------------	--