



IND Lodged with FDA for Clinical Trial of VivaGel™ for Genital Herpes

Melbourne, Australia: Monday 26th June 2006: Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) today announced the submission of a second Investigational New Drug application (IND) to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for a clinical trial of VivaGel™ (SPL7013 Gel). The clinical trial is in support of the product's second clinical indication, prevention of genital herpes. The IND was submitted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), under the agreement executed between Starpharma and NIAID, which was announced by the company in April 2006.

Starpharma submitted an IND to FDA for VivaGel™ for prevention of HIV in June 2003. This second IND is being submitted to satisfy US regulatory requirements for a clinical trial of VivaGel™ to be conducted to support use of the product for prevention of genital herpes.

"The collaboration with NIAID/NIH in the clinical development of VivaGel™ for prevention of genital herpes is proving to be a successful one. In just two months since beginning the collaboration we have achieved a significant milestone", said Dr John Raff, CEO of Starpharma. "This IND begins the regulatory process towards a microbicide product for prevention of genital herpes, which represents a significant market opportunity for VivaGel™."

Genital herpes is recognized as a key health concern in the US where it is one of the most prevalent sexually transmitted diseases. It is estimated that genital herpes currently infects between 15% and 25% of adults in industrialised countries, with the incidence projected to rise drastically in the next decade. In the US alone, approximately 50 million Americans are already infected with genital herpes.

About Starpharma:

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) leads the world in the application of nanotechnology to pharmaceuticals. The Company's lead development product is VivaGel™ (SPL7013 Gel), a vaginal microbicide designed to prevent the transmission of STIs, including HIV and genital herpes.

VivaGel™ is the first example of a product to come from Starpharma's dendrimer-based discovery pipeline, which also includes specific programs in the fields of ADME Engineering™ (using dendrimers to control where and when drugs go when introduced to the body), Polyvalency (using the fact that dendrimers can activate multiple receptors simultaneously) and Targeted Diagnostics (using dendrimers as a scaffold to which both location-signalling and targeting groups are added to allow location of specific cell type, such as cancer cells).

Starpharma also has equity interests in two companies:

- *Dendritic NanoTechnologies, Inc. (DNT)* – a US company established with the pioneer of dendrimer nanotechnology Dr Donald A. Tomalia and in which the Dow Chemical Company holds 30% equity; and

- *Dimerix Bioscience Pty Ltd* – a drug development company established specialising in the field of receptor coupling, specifically G-Protein coupled receptors (“GPCRs”).

Dendrimers: A type of precisely-defined, branched nanoparticle. Dendrimers have applications in the medical, electronics, chemicals and materials industries.

Microbicides: A microbicide inactivates, kills or destroys microbes such as viruses and bacteria. Microbicides may be formulated as gels, creams, sponges, suppositories or films with the purpose of reducing significantly the incidence of STIs. 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.

Genital herpes: A recurrent, lifelong viral infection caused by the sexually transmitted herpes simplex virus type-2 (HSV-2). It is one of the most prevalent STIs, estimated to infect between 15% and 25% of male and female adults in developed countries. This figure is expected to rise to about 39% for males and 49% for females by 2025, unless effective preventive measures are found to reverse the trend. Herpes is estimated to affect one in six adults in America and new cases cost more than US\$1.5 billion each year. The figures for Australia are similar with an estimated one in six adults suffering from genital herpes (3.4 million people).

HSV-2 infection has a marked effect on a sufferer's quality of life. The virus is highly contagious and women appear to be at greater risk of infection than men. HSV-2 infection can make people more susceptible to infection by HIV and increase the transmission rate of HIV. If transmitted from mother to baby, the disease has very serious consequences.

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:

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