



Starpharma appoints new Chief Executive Officer

Melbourne, Australia, 3 July 2006. Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, USOTC:SPHRY) today announced that its CEO of ten years, Dr John Raff, will retire from his executive role allowing his successor, Dr Jackie Fairley, to assume the role of CEO and join the board of the company. Dr Raff will remain a non-executive director of Starpharma and will assume the position of Deputy Chairman on the Board.

The appointment of Dr Fairley is effective from 1 July 2006.

Dr Raff is one of the longest serving biotech CEOs in Australia having been in the role since the company was established. He has been the driving force in taking Starpharma from a small start-up to a company with a developing clinical pipeline of pharmaceutical products, and valuable equity in two complementary businesses in US based DNT and Australian company Dimerix Bioscience.

Dr Fairley was appointed COO in July 2005 as part of the company's CEO succession strategy. Since then, Drs Raff and Fairley have worked in parallel to prepare for the transition and use their combined skills to progress the corporate and clinical programs of the Company.

"The environment for me to step aside is ideal," Dr Raff said. "The company is in a strong position to pursue its clinical program vigorously and successfully. Jackie has the necessary skills in pharmaceutical product development to support this, and we've worked together to ensure the transition has minimal impact on our staff, shareholders and partners."

"My time at Starpharma has been rewarding and I've had the privilege of working with an outstanding team of staff and scientific collaborators. I'm looking forward to having an ongoing role as Deputy Chairman in the coming years and to seeing Starpharma continue to grow and succeed."

Aside from the Deputy Chairman role with Starpharma, Dr Raff plans to maintain his involvement with the biopharma and agri-bio industries through other honorary and non-executive positions.

Starpharma's Chairman, Mr Peter Bartels, added:

"Dr Raff's contribution has been exceptional. His leadership at Starpharma and within the broader industry is well recognised and appreciated, and he will continue to have a positive impact through his Board position."

"We are very fortunate to have a successor with Dr Fairley's experience and together with the depth in our management team we are confident in their ability to take the company into its next phase of growth. Dr Fairley's experience is particularly strong in pharmaceutical product development and corporate transactions. She has successfully managed a number of pharma collaborations and developed a strong track record with institutional investors."

Dr Fairley has more than 16 years' experience working in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Prior to joining the biotech sector she held a variety of international business development and senior management roles with various companies, including CSL and Faulding (now Mayne Pharma).

"It's an exciting time for Starpharma with our lead product for the prevention of two sexually transmitted diseases, VivaGel™, progressing well and new opportunities emerging for us to have a greater presence in the United States," Dr Fairley said. "I've had an opportunity to work side by side with John and the management team for more than 12 months and believe strongly in the future of the company."

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 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.

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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