New Indication for VivaGel®: Bacterial Vaginosis

Melbourne, Australia. Wednesday 9th July, 2008: Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, OTCQX:SPHRY) today announced that it will add the treatment of bacterial vaginosis (BV) to the development program for its vaginal microbicide VivaGel®.

This is the first application of VivaGel® as a treatment. The existing applications are for prevention of infection by the sexually transmitted viruses that cause AIDS (HIV), genital herpes (HSV) and genital warts (HPV), or contraception.

Bacterial Vaginosis is characterised by an imbalance between the naturally occurring vaginal lactobacilli and disease-causing bacteria. It is a major cause of vaginal infection and is particularly prevalent in the US, where it is reported to affect 29% of women.[1] The condition is implicated in pelvic inflammatory disease and may also be associated with an increased risk of sexually transmitted infections and abortion.

Preliminary findings from Starpharma's recent clinical trials suggest that VivaGel® treatment tends to restore the normal balance of bacteria in women who had asymptomatic BV at the time of enrollment in the trial. (Women with symptomatic BV were excluded from the studies).

"This product application is of great interest to Starpharma because of its potential to open up a new, possibly rapid, path to market for VivaGel®. We now plan to investigate these observations fully by conducting clinical trials designed specifically to examine VivaGel®'s efficacy in the treatment of BV," CEO Dr Jackie Fairley said.

The global market for topical vaginal treatments for BV is estimated to be around US$300 million with 4 million prescriptions annually for BV treatment in the US alone.

The current treatment of BV with conventional antibiotics may lead to the development of drug resistance, increased susceptibility to thrush (candidiasis), drug interactions and are incompatible with condoms.

If proven effective against BV, VivaGel® may offer several important advantages over current conventional antibiotic treatments: it is compatible with condoms and is not absorbed by the body, so is less likely to cause drug interactions or lead to drug resistance. In addition, many women experience recurrent BV and are unhappy about the need for continued administration of conventional antibiotics creating a need for alternative therapeutic approaches.

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[1] Prevalence of Bacterial Vaginosis, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Vol. 109, No. 1, January 2007.

About bacterial vaginosis

BV, reportedly the most common vaginal infection, is a major contributor to the 10 million visits to medical practitioners each year in the US.

BV is commonly associated with a malodorous vaginal discharge and has been implicated in the development of pelvic inflammatory disease. Both symptomatic and asymptomatic BV may be associated with an increased risk of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections (chlamydia, gonorrhea and genital herpes), spontaneous abortion, and pre-term birth.

About Starpharma

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, OTCQX:SPHRY) is a world leader in the development of dendrimer nanotechnology for pharmaceutical, life-science and other applications. SPL is principally composed of two operating companies, Starpharma Pty Ltd in Melbourne, Australia and Dendritic Nanotechnologies, Inc in Michigan, USA. Products based on SPL's dendrimer technology are already on the market in the form of diagnostic elements and laboratory reagents.

The Company's lead pharmaceutical development product is VivaGel® (SPL7013 Gel), a vaginal microbicide designed to prevent the transmission of STIs, including HIV and genital herpes.

In the wider pharmaceutical field Starpharma has specific programs in the areas of Drug Delivery and Drug Optimisation technologies (using dendrimers to control where and when drugs go when introduced to the body) 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). More broadly the company is exploring dendrimer opportunities in materials science with applications as diverse as adhesives, lubricants and water remediation.

SPL has a comprehensive IP portfolio that comprises more than 224 patents/applications issued and pending across 56 patent families - a unique level of IP concentration among nanotechnology companies.

Dendrimers: A type of precisely-defined, branched nanoparticle. 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 Securities Exchange (ASX). The Bank of New York Mellon is the depositary bank. Starpharma's ADRs are listed on International OTCQX (www.otcqx.com), a premium market tier in the U.S. for international exchange-listed companies, operated by Pink OTC Markets, Inc.

things, unexpected clinical trial results, including additional analysis of existing clinical data, and new clinical data; unexpected regulatory actions or delays, or government regulation generally; our ability to obtain or maintain patent or other proprietary intellectual property protection; competition in general; government, industry, and general public pricing pressures; and additional factors that involve significant risks and uncertainties about our products, product candidates, financial results and business prospects. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described herein as anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Starpharma is providing this information as of the date of this document and does not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this document as a result of new information, future events or developments or otherwise.

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