



## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

### **Starpharma dendrimer-based lung cancer treatment receives Cancer Australia funding**

**Melbourne, Australia; 19 December 2013:** Starpharma Holdings Ltd (ASX: SPL, OTCQX: SPHRY) today announced that a program utilising its proprietary dendrimer-based nanoparticles which have already shown impressive activity in lung cancer models, have been awarded Cancer Australia funding through its collaboration with Monash Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (MIPS).

The Cancer Australia grant was awarded to Dr Lisa Kaminskas and Prof Chris Porter at MIPS under its Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme to develop dendrimer drug delivery systems for the treatment of lung cancer. This grant was part of a total of \$4.7 million funding announced by the Federal Health Minister earlier this week\*.

The Priority-driven Collaborative Cancer Research Scheme is a competitive national research grant funding scheme which brings together government and other funders of cancer research to collaboratively fund cancer research in Australia.

MIPS was also this week acknowledged as one of Australia's leading nanotechnology research groups being appointed Leader of a new ARC Centre of Excellence in Convergent Bio-Nano Science and Technology. The Centre received \$26 million funding which will be used to expand MIPS' work, and the work of their collaborators in the Centre, in amongst other things, nano-based drug delivery projects. Starpharma has collaborated with MIPS for a number of years on its drug delivery programs, and this was highlighted as a good example of an academic-commercial partnership successfully translating new technologies to market.

Prof Chris Porter, from MIPS said: "The Cancer Australia funding will allow us to develop further our work on drug delivery treatments in lung cancer that we've conducted in partnership with Starpharma. More broadly, it's an exciting time for MIPS and our research partners with the recent announcement of the Centre of Excellence, which will allow us to accelerate and expand our research projects."

"Starpharma is a global leader in nanotechnology drug delivery and our relationship with Starpharma is a wonderful example of how researchers can work with companies to advance very promising pharmaceutical products from the lab to the clinic."

Starpharma Chief Executive Officer Dr Jackie Fairley said: "The prospect of providing lung cancer patients a treatment that improves efficacy and yields lower side effects is highly attractive and we look forward to seeing how this exciting project progresses. We are delighted that a program based on our dendrimer delivery technology has attracted this prestigious cancer funding."

Starpharma's dendrimer-based drug delivery technology has been utilised to reformulate already approved cancer drugs such as docetaxel (Taxotere®), oxaliplatin (Eloxatin®) and doxorubicin. Preclinical studies have shown these reformulated drugs to be superior to the commercially

available formulation, often in multiple ways including improved efficacy, reduced toxicity and lower side effects. Starpharma is advancing its Dendrimer-Docetaxel into a Phase 1 clinical trial in the New Year.

*\*Cancer Australia does not publicly disclose the amount of funding provided for individual grants.*

## ABOUT STARPHARMA

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, OTCQX:SPHRY), located in Melbourne Australia, is an ASX 300 company and is a world leader in the development of dendrimer products for pharmaceutical, life science and other applications.

Starpharma's underlying technology is built around dendrimers – a type of synthetic nanoscale polymer that is highly regular in size and structure and well suited to pharmaceutical uses. Starpharma has three core development programs: VivaGel® portfolio, drug delivery, and agrochemicals with the Company developing a number of products internally and others via commercial partnerships.

Starpharma's lead product is VivaGel® (SPL7013 Gel), a gel-based formulation of a proprietary dendrimer. VivaGel® is under clinical development for the treatment and prevention of bacterial vaginosis (BV) and also as a vaginal microbicide to prevent the transmission of sexually transmitted infections including HIV and genital herpes. Starpharma has also signed separate licence agreements with Ansell Limited (ASX:ANN) and Okamoto Industries Inc (Tokyo Stock Exchange) to market a value-added, VivaGel®-coated condom. Ansell manufactures and sells leading condom brands worldwide, including Lifestyles®, ZERO® and SKYN®. Okamoto is the market leader for condoms sold in Japan, the world's second largest condom market.

In the wider pharmaceutical and life science fields, Starpharma has both partnered and internal programs in Drug Delivery. Drug Delivery partners include GSK, Lilly and AstraZeneca. In its internal program Starpharma has announced significant tumour-targeting results in its docetaxel (Taxotere®) program, with animal studies showing its dendrimer-enhanced version of docetaxel to have significantly superior anti-cancer effects across a range of important cancer types including breast, prostate, lung and ovarian tumour, when compared to Taxotere® (docetaxel).

In agrochemicals Starpharma has a series of partnerships with leading industry players including Nufarm (ASX:NUF) and Makhteshim Agan as well as internal programs including an enhanced version of glyphosate (the active ingredient in Roundup®).

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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## Forward Looking Statements

This document contains certain forward-looking statements, relating to Starpharma's business, which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "promising", "plans", "anticipated", "will", "project", "believe", "forecast", "expected", "estimated", "targeting", "aiming", "set to", "potential", "seeking to", "goal", "could provide", "intends", "is being developed", "could be", "on track", or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential filings or marketing approvals, or potential future sales of product candidates. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no assurance that any existing or future regulatory filings will satisfy the FDA's and other authorities' requirements regarding any one or more product candidates nor can there be any assurance that such product candidates will be approved by any authorities for sale in any market or that they will reach any particular level of sales. In particular, management's expectations regarding the approval and commercialization of the product candidates could be affected by, among other things, unexpected trial results, including additional analysis of existing data, and new 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.