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BioPharmica's anti-mitotic drug for pre-clinical testing

Singapore, Aug 10, 2009: A new class of anti-mitotic drugs, discovered by BioPharmica's cancer cell biology researcher Dr Robin Scaife, is said to have undergone extensive development toward pre-clinical testing of anti-cancer activity. Detailed analysis of chemical analogues of the new drug have yielded, according to the company, a new drug that exhibits nearly 1000 times the biological activity of the initial compound derived by screening of a chemical library.

This new drug recently underwent testing in animals to rule out adverse toxic side-effects. Animals exposed to very high levels of the new drug is said to have exhibited no signs of acute toxicity. BioPharmica's new anti-mitotic drug is, therefore, primed for pre-clinical testing of anti-tumor activity, and it is anticipated that the research program may enable commercial development within this financial year.

The inhibition of cell proliferation and induction of cancer cell death is due to the anti-mitotic activity of these potential new drugs. According to BioPharmica, anti-mitotic drugs, such as the blockbuster anti-cancer drug Taxol, are considered to be among the most clinically important cancer drugs discovered to date, generating revenue well in excess of \$1 billion per year.

BioPharmica has also announced that a new agreement between the University of Western Australia (UWA) and BPH has been finalized to replace the HLS5 Collaborative Research and Technology Farmin Agreement.

Under the new agreement BPH will own 100% of the intellectual property of the HLS5 project and its derivatives developed during the research and development. BPH will also continue to sole fund the development of the projects. In exchange for the ownership of the intellectual property BPH will pay the UWA an agreed net royalty upon commercialization.

As part of the new agreement the company has appointed Dr Robin Scaife as the lead scientist on the project. Dr Scaife who was previously employed by the University of Western Australia will now continue his research as a full time employee of BPH. Dr Scaife will head up the BPH Laboratory located at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR).

BPH's chairman, Mr David Breeze said "We are excited about the new research being undertaken as it has excellent commercial development possibilities. Discussions have already been initiated with international companies with the objective of licensing and development of these projects. It is anticipated that the research program will enable developments in this area within this financial year".

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