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7 July 2011

The Manager Companies  
ASX Limited  
20 Bridge Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

(2 pages by email)

Dear Madam,

### **FINAL PATIENT DOSED IN LANDMARK HEP C TRIAL**

The Directors are pleased to advise that Biotron Limited ('Biotron' or 'the Company') has commenced dosing its final patient in the Company's Phase IIa trial of a new treatment for chronic Hepatitis C ('HCV') infection, with results expected to be known and released by September.

This is an important milestone for the Company as the commercialisation of the lead drug candidate, BIT225, is progressed.

Twenty four patients infected with the most common strain of the Hepatitis C virus, genotype 1, have been enrolled in the study which has been undertaken at an international trial site in Bangkok, Thailand. The trial was a double-blinded, randomised trial with patients receiving drug for 28 days, with 8 patients receiving BIT225 at 400mg, another 8 patients receiving BIT225 at 200mg and the final 8 patients receiving a placebo.

The trial has focused on how BIT225 works in combination with current approved treatments for HCV, Interferon and Ribavirin. In a clinical setting, BIT225 would be expected to be used in a combination with these existing therapies.

BIT225 is a first-in-class drug candidate which specifically targets the p7 protein, a viral protein essential to virus production and replication.

The Company's Managing Director, Dr Miller, commented: "This is a significant milestone for Biotron and we are eagerly anticipating the release of data from the HCV phase IIa trial. The results of previous preclinical and clinical studies have been very encouraging, and we acknowledge interest from the international HCV community about these critical trial results."

### **About Biotron**

Biotron Limited is engaged in the research, development, and commercialisation of drugs targeting significant viral diseases with unmet medical need, with a major focus on HIV and HCV. The Company has BIT225 in clinical development for both HIV and HCV, and also has several earlier stage preclinical and research programs for several other viral infections including influenza, Dengue and Hepatitis B.

## About BIT225 and HCV

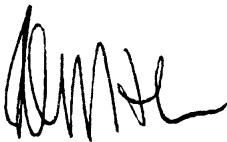
BIT225 represents a first-in-class drug for treatment of HCV, targeting the p7 protein of HCV. It is estimated that in the USA alone, some 4 million people have been infected with Hepatitis C with 2.7 million suffering from chronic infection. Worldwide, 170 million people are infected. HCV causes inflammation of the liver, which may lead to fibrosis and cirrhosis, liver cancer and, ultimately, liver failure. Existing drugs for HCV have limited effectiveness and toxicity issues, leaving a significant need for new therapies. The worldwide market is currently almost US\$3.0 billion, but is estimated that this market will expand to over US\$10.0 billion as safe, effective therapies enter the market.

Monotherapy with Interferon- $\alpha$  and combination therapy with Interferon- $\alpha$  and the ribonucleoside analog Ribavirin are the two different regimens currently approved as therapy for chronic hepatitis C. Treatment with Interferon- $\alpha$  alone, or in combination with Ribavirin, has limited effectiveness. The use of Interferon based therapy for the treatment of HCV can be further limited by frequent side effects, injectable administration and poor patient tolerance and adherence. Many patients receiving Interferon can experience influenza-like symptoms, fatigue and depression. Ribavirin can be problematic for patients with pre-existing anemia, kidney problems or heart disease.

BIT225 has been shown to be synergistic with Interferon and Ribavirin, the current approved drugs for HCV treatment, as well as with NS5B-inhibitors which are a new class in development. The use of BIT225 in combination with either the current standard of care treatment, or NS5B inhibitors, holds exciting potential therapeutic treatment of human HCV infections.

For further information, please contact Dr Michelle Miller, Managing Director, on (61-2) 9805 0488.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PJN', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter J. Nightingale  
Company Secretary

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