



BioPharmica Limited

PRESS RELEASE

HLS5 Gene Implicated in Huntington's and AIDS

Perth, Australia, January 18 - BioPharmica Ltd (ASX: BPH) today announced that researchers from the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) have discovered a link between the HLS5 gene and key aspects of Huntington's disease and AIDS development.

- Whilst scientists at the institute were working on the role of HLS5 in cancer, they discovered that the HLS5 gene has potential involvement in several key regulatory processes within human cells.
- These key processes have been shown to be important in susceptibility and progression for diseases such as the neurodegenerative disease, Huntington's and immune system regulation, including infectious diseases such as AIDS.
- HLS5 is now being developed as a key gene important in multiple disease processes, having multiple functional components, each very attractive for commercialization.

BioPharmica is very pleased with the progress of its portfolio. This includes the Genechip being developed with Diagnostic Array Systems at RMIT University. BioPharmica is intending to announce latest results on the Genechip as soon as these are available.

The Company has lodged international patent protection over the involvement of HLS5 in testing and treatment of these additional diseases. Further details on the Intellectual Property will be made available when the patents pass through the provisional application phase.

Managing Director Dr Sam Gallagher said "BioPharmica will continue to focus on diagnostic and therapeutic applications in cancer for HLS5 with WAIMR due to the capabilities and recent success of the team".

"Research conducted in animals at the Royal Perth Hospital campus of WAIMR has found that HLS5 has an anti-cancer effect. The study found that the introduction of HLS-5 reduced the formation of cancers in mice. We have also completed a pilot trial showing that the HLS5 gene was aberrant in the majority of tissue samples from patients with cancer, consistent with its role as a tumour suppressor."

"The scientists at WAIMR have been exploring links and pathways that are now gathering interest from international researchers".



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Instead of seeking licensing and collaborations for HLS5 solely in relation to cancer, BioPharmica will also be actively seeking potential opportunities in neurodegenerative and infectious diseases.

More than three million people died of AIDS-related illnesses in 2005; of these, more than five hundred thousand were children. There were an additional five million new infections in 2005. The number of people living with HIV globally has reached its highest level with an estimated 40.3 million people, up from an estimated 37.5 million in 2003.

As yet, there is no cure for Huntington disease but treatment for the symptoms is available with varying degrees of effectiveness. The disease affects men and women alike, occurring at a rate of about one in every 10,000 in most Western countries

The development illustrates the strength of the portfolio and the capacity for excellent growth opportunities in the Company's diagnostic, therapeutic and device development programs.

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BioPharmica is dedicated to the ideals of Personalized Medicine through the applied development of discoveries made through fundamental research coming from leading Australian biomedical researchers. Projects undergoing pre-clinical and clinical development are in the production of diagnostic arrays, nanoprobe, biomarkers and therapeutics for diseases including cancer, neurodegenerative, and infectious diseases.