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**Company Announcement****EpiTan appoints New York Professor of Dermatology as Medical Advisory Consultant**

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Melbourne, Australia

Drug-development company EpiTan Limited (ASX:EPT) today announced that the eminent New York-based skin-cancer specialist Dr Perry Robins had joined the company as a Medical Advisory Consultant.

Dr Robins is Professor of Dermatology and Chief of the Mohs Micrographic Surgery Unit at New York University Medical Centre. He will work with EpiTan to develop its Melanotan technology.

Dr Wayne Millen, Managing Director of EpiTan, said he was delighted to welcome a person of Dr Robins' calibre and international standing to the company.

"Dr Robins' eminent position in dermatology will facilitate the expansion of EpiTan's clinical trials into the USA and Europe this year," said Dr Millen. "We will be actively pursuing partnering opportunities now that we have conclusive Phase I & II data showing that Melanotan can reduce sunburn injury."

Dr Robins said: "I contacted EpiTan to get involved as I believe that the Melanotan technology will save lives. Results of the recent Phase II clinical trial clearly demonstrated that increased levels of melanin protect skin from UV damage. The ability to increase the levels of melanin in the skin safely, combined with sunscreen use, will provide individuals with greater protection from the damaging effects of UV radiation."

Dr Robins has practised as a dermatologist for more than 35 years. He is founder and president of the Skin Cancer Foundation, an international organisation dedicated to skin cancer research and public and medical education. The Advisory Board and Medical Councils of the Skin Cancer Foundation comprise more than 144 leading international physicians who are distinguished members of the scientific and medical communities and members of the business and professional sectors

Dr Robins is also the founder/president of the International Society of Dermatologic Surgery, founder/former president of the American College of Mohs Micrographic Surgery, and former president of the American Society of Dermatologic Surgery.

**ABOUT THE COMPANY:** EpiTan Limited (ASX: EPT) is an emerging biotechnology company with a pre-eminent position on the prevention of DNA and skin damage from UV) radiation exposure. Based in Melbourne, Australia, EpiTan holds a unique technology platform centred on its leading drug candidate Melanotan, one of a new breed of pharmacogenomic drugs.

The company has the exclusive worldwide rights to develop Melanotan that, like sunlight, stimulates the production of melanin in the skin or "melanogenesis" – a unique biochemical process. However, and most importantly, the body's melanin levels are increased before exposure to harmful UV radiation. This will become a new photo-protective tool which will be of significant benefit to people with fair skin who are most at risk of sunburn injury and therefore of developing skin cancers.

To date the clinical development of Melanotan has been very successful and has now progressed through to the completion in November 2003 of pivotal Phase IIb clinical trials in Australia. These trials conclusively demonstrated that Melanotan consistently elevated skin melanin levels all over the body. This elevated melanin in skin type I/II correlated with a 50% reduction in sunburn injury. A significant reduction in the damage to DNA in the skin cells was also measured. This is the first time that a drug has been demonstrated to induce a protective level of melanin in people who normally cannot be induced to make any significant amounts of melanin. It is also the first time that the protective elements of melanin can be clearly shown *in vivo* by the fact that the level of melanin could be increased in the skin by means other than by damaging the cells with UV radiation.

EpiTan has now successfully developed a more user-friendly drug delivery formulation of Melanotan in the form of a slow release implant. A clinical trial to determine the optimal dose is currently being conducted by Q-Pharm in Brisbane. The implant will be used in the remaining clinical programme and the commercialised product.

The company expects to lodge an Investigational New Drug (IND) application with the Food and Drug Administration in order to open the path for sunburn injury clinical trials in the United States starting in mid 2004.

EpiTan is also investigating Melanotan as a therapeutic agent for UV-induced skin allergies such as PMLE and solar urticaria. PMLE is a significant UV-induced skin allergy in northern latitudes and the company expects to begin trials in Europe in early 2004 to examine the ability of Melanotan to alleviate or cure this disorder.

Potential markets worldwide for Melanotan for dermatology purposes are estimated at US\$2.5 billion. An even greater market (more than US\$5 billion) exists for Melanotan as a new safe (prescription) sunscreen drug.

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