

13 April 2004

## **ASX ANNOUNCEMENT**

### **Further MTA signed for Hepatitis C Rapid Diagnostic Project**

Further to its release of 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2004, Select Vaccines Limited (ASX:SLT) is pleased to announce that it has entered into an additional materials transfer agreement (MTA) with an established US-based diagnostics company to obtain access to that company's diagnostic platform for use in Select's Hepatitis C virus (HCV) rapid diagnostic development project.

The directors of Select believe that the execution of this further MTA is an important step forward in the Company's plans to develop and commercialise a unique rapid diagnostic test for HCV. By using this new platform alongside its current development system, Select will be able to further enhance the development of its HCV rapid diagnostic test.

By developing its HCV test on a number of existing diagnostic platforms, Select expects to be able to both improve the specificity and sensitivity of the test and enhance its commercial value.

With respect to HCV diagnostics, the priority for Select over the next few months is to produce a series of rapid prototype tests on different platforms for evaluation by the Company's various development partners and other interested parties. The Company believes that its current timeline of the second half of 2004 for the production of these prototypes remains achievable.

#### **About Select Vaccines Limited**

Select Vaccines listed on the ASX on 3 July 2003. It is in partnership with Melbourne's Burnet Institute to commercialise research outcomes in the areas of diagnosis, vaccination and therapy for infectious diseases caused by viruses.

The Burnet Institute, established in 1986, is Australia's leading research organisation in the field of infectious diseases caused by viruses and other agents.

Select has formed two project companies, Hepgenics Pty Ltd and Picoral Pty Ltd, to undertake different areas of research and development. Hepgenics is commercialising highly promising R&D projects in hepatitis diagnostics and vaccines developed by researchers at the Burnet Institute. Picoral's research interests cover the development of therapeutic products with actions against the picornavirus family, responsible for a range of illnesses that includes the common cold, meningitis and encephalitis.

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