

VITAL SIGNS - The pharmaceuticals and biotechnology synopsis

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BioPharmica Limited (BPH) has increased its interest in the HLS5 project to a majority position and appointed a former GE Healthcare senior scientist to join the HLS5 project team. The company has elected to attain a majority interest in the HLS5 project (55%) by advancing a further \$400,000 towards the development program. The HLS5 agreement entered into with the University of Western Australia and WAIMR enabled BioPharmica to earn a 55% interest in the project through total expenditure of up to \$600,000 at any time. In conjunction with the above expenditure BioPharmica has appointed Dr Sam Gallagher as Vice President of Research and Development with a priority focus on the HLS5 project. Dr Gallagher was previously a UK based member of BioPharmica's Scientific Advisory Panel.

Epitan Limited (EPT), announced today that it has completed recruitment for its Phase II photoprotection clinical trial (EP008). The trial is designed to measure the photoprotective effects of its melanin-producing drug EPT1647 on the skin following a single subcutaneous administration of a sustained release implant. The 45 subjects have now received study medication. The trial is expected to be completed in early 2006 with the final report available in June 2006. Over a 12 week period, the study is designed to measure both increases in melanin density at various anatomical sites and the sensitivity of the skin as measured by the minimal erythema index (skin reddening following exposure to UV radiation).

Harrington Group Limited (HGR), advised that they have entered into an agreement with Sun Biomedical Laboratories Inc. (SBL) of New Jersey, USA to acquire control of the world's leading patent protected oral fluid (saliva) testing technologies. Subject to completion of due diligence, the company will acquire an initial 40% interest in SBL in exchange for 12 million Harrington Group shares. For a consideration of US\$50k, the company will have an option until June 30, 2006 to acquire the remaining 60%.

Phylogica Limited (PYC) received formal Notice of Allowance from the European Patent and Trademark Office for its pending application entitled: "Isolating Biological Modulators from Biodiverse Gene Fragment Libraries. CEO Dr Stewart Washer said that this was an important milestone for Phylogica in Europe where there is "significant interest" in their technology. "The patent protects Phylogica's core peptide library technology that we are using to create our drug pipeline to treat inflammatory diseases such as stroke, asthma and diabetes. Peptides represent the next generation of drugs beyond antibodies, a US\$10bn drug class. Phylogica has a monopoly position in peptide drugs derived from biodiverse gene fragments that we will use to create further drug candidates for our own pipeline and enter into drug co-development deals with other biotechnology companies and pharmaceutical companies," he said.

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