



## INFORMATION RELEASE

# US PATENT GRANTED TO PEPLIN BIOTECH - Acceptance of three new Australian patents also advised

BRISBANE, 27 August 2002 – Brisbane anti-cancer drug developer Peplin Biotech (ASX:PEP) has been advised of the grant of its US patent for the topical treatment of skin cancer using its compounds.

Peplin Biotech is presently in negotiation for the international licensing of its lead drug PEP 005 for actinic keratosis and non-melanoma skin cancer. The US patent covers the treatment of pre-cancerous actinic keratosis (sometimes known as “sun spots”) as well as the common malignancies basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma. The less common, but more aggressive melanoma and Merkel cell carcinoma, are also covered by the company’s US patent, however the company intends to address these diseases with forms of the drug more suitable for systemic rather than topical delivery.

“The grant of our core US skin cancer patent is very timely given the present status of our negotiations in the US pharmaceutical sector” said Managing Director Garry Redlich. “Clear intellectual property protection, free of obligations to pay third-party royalties, puts us in a good position for the next phase of clinical and commercial development of the drug”.

Peplin also advised that the Australian Patent & Trade Mark Office has issued Notices of Acceptance for three new patents entitled Therapeutic Agents I, Therapeutic Agents II and Anti-Cancer Compounds III. These patents address applications for the company’s family of drug candidates for the treatment of immune-related and inflammatory diseases including HIV and rheumatoid arthritis, as well as widening its claims in relation to cancer.

“With these acceptances, we now expect our complete suite of basic patent filings to be granted in Australia for the PEP family of compounds, including therapeutic interactions associated with our principal molecular target, protein kinase C”, said Peplin Biotech’s Research Director, Dr Jim Aylward, who was the sole inventor named in the company’s US patent.

### About Peplin Biotech

Peplin Biotech Ltd is a Brisbane-based biomedical research company, discovering and developing drugs for the treatment of cancer. Its strategy is to work with large pharmaceutical companies to co-develop and license its family of novel proprietary compounds for a topical drug for the US\$1 billion skin cancer market and is proceeding with research into the development of systemic drugs for other targets including breast, colorectal, pancreatic and prostate cancer.

### About a Notice of Acceptance

The Australian Patent Office assesses patent applications for novelty, inventiveness and utility of the claims and makes a determination whether or not the application supports the scope of the claims. Examiners search international patent and scientific literature databases for potentially competing disclosures. When a Patent Examiner is satisfied that a patent application meets these criteria, a Notice of Acceptance issues. The acceptance of the patent application is then advertised in the Official Journal of the Australian Patent Office, giving third parties up to three months to file a Notice of Opposition to the acceptance of the application. If the acceptance of the application is not opposed, the accepted application proceeds to grant after payment of a grant fee.

### Further information:

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### KEY POINTS

- Peplin’s US skin cancer patent has now been granted
- All forms of skin cancer are included in the granted patent
- Three new Australian patents have been accepted, covering treatment of immune system and inflammatory disorders using Peplin’s compounds and involving protein kinase C