



## MEDIA & ASX RELEASE

# PEPLIN EXPANDS PATENT COVERAGE

**Brisbane, Australia, 18 July 2002.**

The Australian Patent Office has notified Peplin Biotech (ASX:PEP) of the acceptance of a raft of patents covering its anti-cancer compounds and their potentially beneficial effects on other diseases via the activation of Protein Kinase C (PKC).

These new Peplin patents entitled "Anti-cancer compounds I", "Anti-cancer compounds II" and "Therapeutic Applications III" increase the company's portfolio to more than twenty international patents either granted, accepted, allowed or pending.

Although Peplin's present focus is on cancer, its lead drug PEP 005 modulates PKC, a signalling molecule that is essential for healthy cell functioning.

Apart from cancer, aberrant PKC activity is associated with a wide range of human diseases including skin disorders such as psoriasis, as well as a number of cardiovascular and mental diseases. Autoimmune disorders including diabetes, multiple sclerosis and HIV are also affected by PKC. The Australian Patent Office has accepted a wide range of Peplin Biotech claims for the treatment and prevention of these diseases using its compounds.

PKC directed drug therapy is rapidly attracting the attention of the world's largest pharmaceutical companies, with many now recognising that this mechanism may offer important therapeutic benefits over the present generation of toxic chemotherapy drugs.

"While aggressive patent filing to expand and protect our intellectual property around the world remains a cornerstone policy for Peplin, our commercial focus remains on cancer," said Managing Director and CEO Garry Redlich.

Peplin Biotech is presently in licensing negotiations for its lead compound PEP 005 for skin cancer to an international pharmaceutical company. Last month, the US National Cancer Institute advised Peplin that PEP 005 was active in its laboratory tests against an important group of human tumour types including colorectal cancer, renal cancer and leukaemia at extremely low (picomolar) concentrations. The NCI also recently granted a licence to Peplin Biotech for the company's scientists to evaluate the NCI's own new PKC-related compounds for anti-cancer and other therapeutic activity.

## 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

- Three new patent filings covering the treatment of cancer and large groups of non-cancer diseases have been accepted by the Australian Patent Office
- Peplin's commercial focus remains on cancer
- Negotiations with international pharmaceutical companies for licensing Peplin's first drug (for skin cancer) are continuing