



## ASX & MEDIA RELEASE

### Three new patents granted to Peplin Half-year revenues up 240%

Brisbane, Australia, February 10, 2003 – Reporting its half-year results today, Peplin Biotech Ltd (ASX: PEP) announced a large boost in revenue resulting from an initial payment from its US licensee Allergan, Inc., and the grant by the Australian Patent Office of three new patents relating to its proprietary anti-cancer compounds.

One of the new Peplin patents, *Therapeutic Agents III*, protects the company's suite of compounds for the treatment of a very wide range of human diseases, including cancer, which are known to be related to the dysregulation of Protein Kinase C (PKC) in patients.

Commenting on the new patent grant, Peplin's Director of Research, Dr Jim Aylward said: "This patent closes the loop between the earlier protection of our proprietary anti-cancer compounds and this important cell signalling pathway. PKC is intimately involved in health and disease processes in almost all human cells, and studies conducted at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research show that our drugs regulate this important cell signalling pathway in a unique manner."

It was Dr Aylward's initial research which identified Peplin's promising new class of compounds, the first of which has already been licensed to US pharmaceutical company Allergan, Inc. for skin diseases (including skin cancer), and eye diseases. "Working with researchers around the world, including the prestigious US National Cancer Institute, we are now determining our next major cancer target for development", he added. Dr Aylward also said that the other two new patents widen the scope of Peplin's parent *Anti-cancer Compounds* patent.

Peplin's report also advised the market that its half-year revenues were up 240% to \$2.3m and its loss was down 75% to \$265,000. "This good result was largely due to the initial payment under our collaboration and license deal with Allergan which was signed in late November," said Garry Redlich, Peplin's Managing Director. The deal was described by Australian Biotechnology News in December as "the hallmark deal of the year" for the sector.

#### **About Peplin Biotech:**

Peplin Biotech Ltd is a biomedical research company based in Brisbane, Australia, 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. Following the recent licensing deal of its lead drug for skin and eye diseases to Allergan for the Americas, it is proceeding with research into the development of systemic drugs for major cancer targets including breast, colorectal, pancreatic and prostate cancer.

#### **Further information:**

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