



ASX RELEASE

New Funding Round for Peplin Biotech To Accelerate R&D

Brisbane, Australia, 2 June, 2003

Peplin Biotech Ltd (ASX-PEP) today announced the placement of 5,000,000 new shares to domestic and international institutional investors at 70 cents per share to raise \$3.5 million before expenses associated with the issue. The funds raised will be used to accelerate the company's pipeline of drug candidates targeting cancer and other diseases and to broaden its technology in the area of protein kinase C (PKC) activation and immunomodulation.

Peplin Biotech's chairman Dr Cherrell Hirst welcomed the investment as recognition by a number of leading Australian and international institutional investors of Peplin's success in delivering against its promises and a major sign of confidence in its strategy going forward.

"It has been a busy six months for Peplin. In November 2002 we signed the first ever licence of an Australian anti-cancer drug with a US pharmaceutical company. That collaboration with Allergan, Inc which is developing Peplin's topical drug for skin cancer is on-schedule and on-budget. Future milestone payments due under this collaboration will continue to underpin our cash flow, however this additional funding opens up the opportunity for Peplin to broaden and accelerate its drug pipeline and technology platform with benefit to both shareholders and cancer patients," Dr Hirst said.

The shares were placed with Australian and international institutional clients of Wilson HTM and ABN AMRO Morgans which acted as joint placement agents. Wilson HTM acted as bookrunner to the placement.

About Peplin Biotech:

Peplin Biotech Ltd is a biotechnology company based in Brisbane, Australia, discovering and developing drugs for the treatment of cancer. Its strategy is to leverage its pipeline of novel proprietary products through collaborative development arrangements with international pharmaceutical companies. In November 2002 Peplin signed a US\$23m license for its lead drug for skin and eye diseases to Allergan for the Americas. Its product pipeline comprises drug candidates addressing major cancer targets including breast, colorectal, pancreatic and prostate cancer, using topical, intralesional and systemic routes of administration.

Further information:

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