

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **INDEPENDENT TESTS VERIFY BIOTRON'S HIV COMPOUND TO BE EFFECTIVE AND NON-TOXIC IN THE TREATMENT OF AIDS**

Independent testing has confirmed that Biotron's BIT009 compound (the Virion Project's lead compound), inhibits HIV-1 replication in human cells without harming cell survival.

The inhibition of HIV-1 replication prevents the HIV-1 virus developing into AIDS.

In experiments designed to test the BIT009 compound's ability to inhibit viral replication, human white blood cells were infected with the HIV virus. After adding BIT009 the level of virus released by the cells was significantly reduced, and replication of the virus almost wholly prevented. Most importantly, it was shown that the compound caused no harm to human cells.

The tests were independently conducted at the Westmead Millennium Research Institute in Sydney. The results verify those of the previous and on-going testing conducted by Biotron's Virion Project in Canberra.

Dr Michelle Miller, Biotron Limited's Managing Director, said; "These test results are a significant advance in the treatment of AIDS. Current AIDS drugs do not target the 'budding' process in the development of HIV-1 into AIDS. Potentially, the BIT009 compound could be used to slow, even prevent, the HIV virus developing into AIDS."

The study extends previous results showing that BIT009 inhibits HIV replication. In this most recent study, excellent levels of viral inhibition were obtained using a 10-fold lower concentration of the BIT009 compound compared to previous studies, with no evidence of cellular toxicity. This confirms that, even at lower levels, the BIT009 compound inhibits the growth and development of the HIV virus without damaging human cells.

Biotron Limited is a publicly-owned company based in the Australian Capital Territory.

The BIT009 compound is the latest in a series of successful trials for the company.

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