

22 November 2002

The Manager - Companies  
Australian Stock Exchange Limited  
20 Bridge Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

(2 pages by facsimile 1 300 300 021)

Dear Madam,

**RE: COLORECTAL CANCER TRIAL COMMENCED  
and  
VIRION PROJECT (HIV) UPDATE**

**COLORECTAL CANCER TRIAL**

The Directors are pleased to advise that Biotron Limited ('the Company') has commenced a second clinical trial of its CT-2 cancer diagnostic assay. The trial, to be conducted on blood samples from colorectal cancer patients, follows from preliminary studies that demonstrated that specific cancer types have unique biomarker expression profiles.

This new trial is the second in what will be a series of trials targeted to each of the major cancer groups, and will be conducted in conjunction with clinicians from the Sydney Colorectal Associates at the Prince of Wales Hospital and St George Hospital, Sydney. The trial will involve 150 volunteers with colorectal cancer as well as additional controls, and is expected to take approximately six months to complete.

CT-2 analyses the pattern of expression levels of a series of different biomarkers. The Company aims to develop a diagnostic test that will diagnose the cancer type on the basis of the pattern of expression of small non-protein biomarkers that are found in serum. Preliminary studies have shown that the serum from patients with different cancer types have different, unique expression patterns or "fingerprints".

The Company is currently conducting a trial in association with St Vincent's Clinic for determination of the spectrometric fingerprint for prostate cancer.

As existing assays are considered unreliable and lack specificity and sensitivity, the development of a very specific, sensitive and, importantly, a non-invasive assay for cancer will be a major advance. The test can be performed as small a volume as a drop of blood.

## **VIRION PROJECT (HIV) UPDATE**

The Company has entered into an agreement with the Burnet Institute, Melbourne for further testing of the Virion Project lead compound, BIT009.

As previously advised, BIT009 has been shown to inhibit replication of HIV-1, the virus that causes AIDS. The inhibition of HIV-1 replication prevents the HIV-1 virus developing into AIDS.

The current work will extend the previous findings by testing BIT009's activity against a wider range of strains of HIV-1, including clinical isolates of the virus. This information will significantly enhance the commercial value of the technology.

As previously advised in the Company's announcements, existing AIDS drugs do not target the 'budding' process in the development of HIV-1 to AIDS. Our studies conducted to date with BIT009 represent significant progress in the development of a new type of drug which can be used in the treatment of AIDS. The Company is looking to move BIT009 into clinical trials in the first half of 2003.

For further information, please contact Dr. Michelle Miller, Managing Director, on (02) 61258001 or 0412313329.

Yours sincerely

Peter J. Nightingale  
Company Secretary

pjn1992