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The Manager Companies  
ASX Limited  
20 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

(2 pages by email)

Dear Madam

### **INDEPENDENT RESEARCH VALIDATES BIOTRON HCV DRUG CANDIDATE**

- *UK study finds BIT225 has pan-genotype activity*
- *New research extends data to other HCV genotypes*

**Sydney, Australia, 27 November 2013** - A new scientific paper has further validated the lead compound in development by Australian drug development company Biotron Limited (ASX: BIT), extending evidence of activity to the 6 major strains of the Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

The independent study has been published in the peer-reviewed journal *Antiviral Research*. Scientists demonstrated that Biotron's p7 inhibitor, BIT225, is active against HCV genotypes 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 using an *in vitro* cell culture assay (Meredith *et al*, *Antiviral Research* 100 (2013): 636-639).

Biotron has previously demonstrated that BIT225 is active against genotypes 1 and 3 but clinical trials have not yet extended to patients infected with other strains of the virus.

Managing Director Dr Michelle Miller said that these latest results suggest Biotron's compound has pan-genotype activity.

"This independent study further validates our plan to progress BIT225 as a new adjunctive therapeutic for Hepatitis C" she said. "Importantly, this report extends the existing efficacy data and demonstrates that BIT225 has activity across previously untested genotypes."

Biotron's BIT225 compound belongs to a new class of direct acting antiviral drugs for HCV. It specifically targets the p7 protein, which is responsible for virus assembly and release.

The HCV global market is currently estimated at US\$3.3 billion, but is expected to expand to over US\$15 billion as safe, effective therapies enter the market.

Yours sincerely



Peter J. Nightingale  
Company Secretary

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## **About Biotron and BIT225**

Biotron Limited is engaged in the research, development, and commercialisation of drugs targeting significant viral diseases with unmet medical need, with a major focus on HIV and HCV. The Company has BIT225 in clinical development for both HIV and HCV, and also has several earlier stage preclinical and research programs for several other viral infections including Dengue.

BIT225 has recorded encouraging data against HCV in clinical trials. A phase 2a trial in HCV demonstrated that 100% of HCV genotype 1-infected patients receiving BIT225 (400 mg) in combination with current standard of care therapies interferon and ribavirin had undetectable virus after 48 weeks. A phase 2, three month dosing trial of BIT225 in combination with interferon and ribavirin in HCV genotype 1 and 3 patients is currently in progress.

BIT225 is also in development for treatment of HIV, and is the first in a new class of antiviral drugs that may provide a new approach to eradication of this virus. It has shown clinical efficacy against HIV in reservoir cells, and has the potential to be combined with new or existing anti-retroviral drugs to eradicate long-lived pools of virus that are not eliminated with current treatments.

A phase 2 trial, 4-dosing trial of BIT225 in patients co-infected with HIV and HCV genotype 1 or 3 was completed in mid-2013. Interim analysis has shown that 100% of genotype 3 patients who completed dosing are clear of virus at the 12-week time point of the trial.

### **Enquiries**

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