

14 December 2012

The Manager Companies  
ASX Limited  
20 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

(2 pages by email)

Dear Madam

## **BIOTRON COMPLETES CLINICAL STAGE OF HIV CLINICAL TRIAL**

**14 December 2012 (Sydney, Australia):** Australian drug development company Biotron Limited (ASX:BIT) has completed the clinical stage of a landmark phase 1b/2a proof-of-concept human trial of its lead HIV drug candidate, BIT225.

The placebo-controlled, double-blinded study was undertaken at an international clinical trial unit in Bangkok, Thailand. Patients enrolled in the trial were HIV-positive, with high levels of virus and good CD4 T cell counts, and had not previously received treatment with anti-retroviral drugs. Patients received either BIT225 (300 mg; twice daily) or placebo for a period of 10 days.

Laboratory analyses on samples collected from the patients are now in progress. Preliminary data from the trial are anticipated to be available during the first quarter of 2013.

Biotron scientists have previously established that BIT225 is able to inhibit replication of the HIV virus in monocyte lineage cells in which the virus has been able to 'hide' from current drug treatments.

While current approved HIV drugs have resulted in reduction of HIV levels in the blood, they have not been effective in eliminating virus from underlying reservoirs such as monocyte lineage cells. Treatment and elimination of HIV from reservoirs remains a major therapeutic challenge.

The aim of this trial is to demonstrate the safety and pharmacokinetics of the drug in HIV-infected patients and to measure the ability of BIT225 to reduce HIV loads in HIV-infected reservoir cells. By specifically targeting HIV in reservoir cells, Biotron's BIT225 offers the potential to stop the on-going cycle of infection in the body.

BIT225 is synergistic with commonly used anti-retroviral therapies and would potentially be used in conjunction with these treatments. BIT225 is also in development for treatment of Hepatitis C virus (HCV).

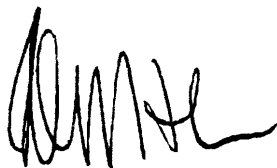
In a recent Phase 2a trial, 100% of patients receiving BIT225 (400 mg) in combination with interferon and ribavirin had undetectable virus after 48 weeks. A Phase 2 trial of BIT225 in patients co-infected with both HIV and HCV is currently in progress.

Enquiries

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Yours sincerely



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### **About Biotron**

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.