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1 May 2017

The Manager Companies  
ASX Limited  
20 Bridge Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

(2 pages by email)

Dear Madam

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR DRUGS  
TARGETING HIV-1 IN MACROPHAGES**

**Sydney, Australia, 1 May, 2017** - A recently published scientific paper has reported the importance of macrophage reservoirs of HIV-1 as barriers to cure with antiretroviral treatment. This paper validates Biotron's approach of using its lead clinical compound, BIT225, to target the elimination of HIV-1 in macrophages.

The independent study, published in the prestigious Nature Medicine (Nat Med. 2017 Apr 17. doi: 10.1038/nm.4319[Epub ahead of print]), reported that humanised mice infected with HIV-1 establish persistent infection of virus in tissue macrophages despite treatment with antiretroviral therapy (cART). The authors noted, "One major barrier to eradication (of HIV-1) is that the virus infects multiple cell types that may individually contribute to HIV persistence. Tissue macrophages are critical contributors to HIV pathogenesis."

Biotron's Managing Director, Dr. Michelle Miller said, "The results from this study upholds Biotron's approach to treatment of HIV-1 infection. BIT225 specifically targets HIV-1 in macrophages. This recently reported study clearly demonstrates the need for new drugs to eradicate virus in this persistent reservoir."

A Phase 2 clinical trial of BIT225 in combination with cART in HIV-1 infected patients is currently in progress. The trial has been designed to demonstrate that BIT225 provides an antiviral benefit over and above that of cART, by targeting HIV-1 in macrophage reservoirs. The trial is expected to be complete in the 3Q17, with preliminary headline data anticipated shortly thereafter.

Yours sincerely



Peter J. Nightingale  
Company Secretary

**About Biotron**

Biotron Limited is engaged in the research, development, and commercialisation of drugs targeting significant viral diseases with unmet medical need. The Company has BIT225 in clinical development for both HIV-1 and HCV and also has several earlier stage preclinical and research programs. The Company's focus is designing drugs that target a class of virus protein known as viroporins which have a key role in the virus life cycle of a very broad range of viruses, many of which have caused worldwide health issues such as Dengue, Hepatitis B, Ebola, Middle East Respiratory virus, Influenza and Zika viruses.

**Enquiries**

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