

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

17 October 2007

### **Cytopia's lead anticancer compound shows promise in multiple myeloma – Phase II trial to begin end 2007**

Cytopia Limited (ASX: CYT) today announced positive data from studies investigating the activity of CYT997 in cell samples from patients with multiple myeloma. The studies were performed by Dr Andrew Spencer's Myeloma Research Group at the Australian Centre for Blood Diseases on the campus of The Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

Multiple myeloma is an incurable cancer of specialised bone marrow cells known as plasma cells. In patients with multiple myeloma, these plasma cells divide in an uncontrolled manner invading the bone marrow and the solid bone tissue.

Whilst significant progress has been made in new therapies for multiple myeloma in recent years, disease recurrence almost always occurs with increasing drug resistance leading to uncontrollable and fatal disease. It is estimated that 4,000 Australians die each year of multiple myeloma and approximately 50,000 people are living with a diagnosis of multiple myeloma in the United States alone.

CYT997 was shown to have a number of favourable effects in myeloma cells including the ability to stop cells dividing; the ability to overcome a specific mechanism of myeloma cell resistance and to kill cells from multiple myeloma patients with multiple myeloma which has recurred following treatment with other drugs.

Importantly, CYT997 was also shown to improve the anti-myeloma properties of drugs currently approved for myeloma treatment, opening the possibility of synergistic activity in the clinical setting.

In light of this positive laboratory data, Cytopia has filed regulatory applications for a Phase II study in patients with multiple myeloma which is resistant or has recurred following previous treatment. Dr Spencer will act as the study's Principal Investigator. Subject to regulatory approval, dosing in the Phase II study will commence in late 2007. Phase II studies in other cancers are scheduled to commence in 2008.

Dr Spencer's research group will be presenting the findings of the myeloma cell studies today at the annual conference of the Haematology Society of Australia and New Zealand on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

## **About CYT997**

CYT997 is a novel, vascular-disrupting agent (VDA) which Cytopia is developing for the treatment of cancer. The company recently completed a Phase I study designed to investigate the safety, tolerability and preliminary activity of CYT997 when administered as a 24 hour intravenous infusion to advanced cancer patients.

Data from this study has been used to guide selection of specific cancer types for further study. The company is also currently undertaking a similar Phase I study designed to determine the safety of CYT997 when given as an oral capsule dose. Cytopia anticipates filing regulatory applications for a number of additional Phase II studies during 2008.

## **About Cytopia**

Cytopia Ltd is an Australian biotechnology company focused on the discovery and development of new drugs to treat cancer. Cytopia conducts its research and development via subsidiaries based in Melbourne and New York and specialises in discovering new molecules that can inhibit enzymes known as kinases, an exciting new class of drugs.

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