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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Clinical Trial Progress of Cancer Drug CYT997**

Cytopia Limited's (ASX: CYT) cancer drug candidate, CYT997, is a novel vascular-disrupting agent (VDA). The compound is being investigated in two Phase I cancer trials in Brisbane.

The following aspects of the trials are addressed below in further detail;

- Two advanced cancer patients to continue treatment under compassionate use program
- Phase II clinical trial expected to begin later in 2007
- Oral trial showing early promise

#### **Administration of CYT997 under compassionate use scheme**

Two patients whose formal participation in the CYT997 clinical trial has concluded, will continue to receive the drug under the Commonwealth Government's Special Access Scheme (SAS). The SAS programme allows the administration of unapproved drugs to patients with life-threatening conditions such as advanced cancer at the request of their medical practitioner.

"While no robust conclusions regarding the effectiveness of CYT997 can yet be made, it is encouraging that two patients have elected to continue therapy with the drug," said Cytopia's CEO, Mr Andrew Macdonald. "The SAS scheme is an ideal way for these patients to continue ongoing treatment with CYT997 in the absence of formal marketing approval in Australia".

Cytopia will supply the medication to the patients free of charge.

## **Intravenous Phase I study**

The Phase I study is testing the safety and tolerability of CYT997 in advanced cancer patients. The compound is administered as a 24 hour intravenous infusion every three weeks.

The trial has recently reached an important milestone by identifying a dose-limiting toxicity in one patient. Dose-escalation has ceased in accordance with the clinical trial protocol and the principal investigator is now expanding this cohort to six patients. Should another dose-limiting toxicity occur at this dose level, the maximum tolerated dose (MTD) will be identified. Confirmation of the MTD will complete the primary objective of the study.

As previously advised, the company has been collecting important tumour perfusion and pharmacokinetic data from most patients in the trial. While this data is still being analysed, planning is well progressed for the CYT997 Phase II trial program, which is anticipated to commence later this year.

CYT997 is one of a small number of VDA's currently in clinical development. A similar compound, AS1404 developed by Antisoma plc and in Phase II trials, has recently been licensed to the global pharmaceutical company Novartis for potential payments of up to US\$890 million, including a US\$75 million upfront component.

"The recent Antisoma deal with Novartis deal bodes extremely well for Cytopia's own VDA, CYT997," said Mr Andrew Macdonald, CEO of Cytopia. "We believe that CYT997 compares favourably with AS1404 in terms of potency, robust patent protection and the ability to administer CYT997 as a capsule, tablet or via intravenous injection. We look forward to advancing our drug into a Phase II programme later this year."

## **Oral Phase I clinical trial**

Enrolment and dosing for the oral Phase I trial for CYT997, which commenced in December 2006, is continuing. No dose-limiting toxicities have yet been identified. Importantly, early pharmacokinetic data indicates that CYT997 is absorbed following oral administration in humans. This suggests potentially broader clinical utility for the compound.

## **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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