



5 September 2003

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please find herewith a commercially sensitive announcement “**Cytopia granted patent in Japan**” for distribution to the market immediately.

Yours sincerely

NICHOLAS MATHIOU  
**Finance Director**



**Media Release**  
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## **Cytopia granted patent in Japan**

Medica Holdings Limited's (ASX: MCA) subsidiary Cytopia Pty Ltd today announced that a patent covering its important drug discovery targets has now been granted in Japan.

The patent relates to several enzymes that play a crucial role in inflammatory diseases such as arthritis and asthma, as well as many cancers. The enzymes, known as kinases, are in the same family as that targeted by Novartis's blockbuster drug, Glivec.

Cytopia has an exclusive worldwide royalty-free license to this patent from the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research.

Dr Kevin Healey, Medica's Managing Director and Cytopia's CEO, said that the company had made significant progress in finding potent molecules that could become drug candidates in the near future, particularly for immune diseases.

"The granting of the Japanese patent significantly adds to our intellectual property portfolio and will make it possible to consider regional licensing agreements", he said.

"The patents have already granted in the US and Australia and the company has been notified that all claims would also be allowed in Europe", said Dr Healey.

### **About Medica Holdings Limited**

Medica, an ASX-listed Pooled Development Fund, specialises in investing in the biotechnology sector. It established Cytopia and owns around 79%. It also owns 20.7% of Alchemia, which is developing carbohydrate-based drugs and 25% of Xenome, which is developing new drugs derived from venoms for the treatment of neurological disorders.

Under the PDF Scheme, Medica's shareholders are exempt from tax on capital gains or profits from the sale of shares. For further information, please visit [www.medica.com.au](http://www.medica.com.au), email [info@medica.com.au](mailto:info@medica.com.au) or contact:

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## About Cytopia Pty Ltd

Cytopia is a Melbourne-based drug discovery company focused on the treatment of immune diseases and cancer. It is a 79%-owned subsidiary of Medica Holdings Limited (ASX: MCA).

Cytopia specialises in discovering new drugs that can inhibit enzymes known as kinases, an exciting new class of drugs.

Cytopia holds a worldwide exclusive license from the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research to a number of these enzymes known as JAK kinases which play a crucial role in activating cells of the immune system and some cancers. The JAK kinases, which were discovered by Dr Wilks, are well-validated drug targets and Cytopia has now lodged four patent applications to protect inhibitors with therapeutic potential.

Cytopia has developed proprietary computer software to test how well molecules bind to the proteins involved in causing diseases. The "Chemaphore" platform consists of a series of software modules developed by Cytopia that collectively enable the design of focused chemical libraries, high-throughput *in silico* screening, and the refinement of drug leads into drug candidates. *In silico* or virtual screening, allows many hundreds of thousands of molecules to be rapidly screened by computer without the need to take the time and expense of physically making a single compound. The time and cost saving can be as much as 100 times the usual approach of random screening.

Cytopia combines this *in silico* technology with smart medicinal chemistry and a broad screening capability that includes high-throughput screening of over 20 different kinases and a large range of cell-based validation assays.

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