

T +61 3 9522 6900

F +61 3 9510 9292

E [cytopia@cytopia.com.au](mailto:cytopia@cytopia.com.au)

[www.cytopia.com.au](http://www.cytopia.com.au)

ACN 079 253 606



Cytopia Limited

PO Box 6492

Level 5

St Kilda Road Central

Baker Heart Research

Melbourne VIC 8008

Institute Building

Australia

Commercial Road

Melbourne VIC 3004

Australia

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

10 March 2005

### **CYTOPIA SEEKS TO TEST CANCER DRUG**

Cytopia Limited (ASX:CYT) has filed an Investigational New Drug Application (IND) with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the United States (US) to seek approval for the clinical testing of its cancer drug candidate CYT997.

The company has also sought approval to commence a Phase I clinical trial in Australia.

CYT997 is a potent new drug that kills cancer cells and reduces blood supply to the tumour. The drug has proven to be efficacious by oral and intravenous administration in a wide range of animal models.

Cytopia's Managing Director Dr Kevin Healey said the IND filing was a major milestone for Cytopia as it represented the culmination of a rigorous and successful drug development program aimed at providing proof of efficacy and safety in animals to support a human clinical investigation of CYT997.

"The IND provides the necessary information required by the FDA to decide whether clinical studies can be conducted in the US with CYT997 including its safety profile in animals and the proposed clinical trial protocol", said Dr Healey.

In the US, cancer is the second leading cause of death exceeded only by heart disease and accounts for 1 of every 4 deaths. Over 1,500 people a day die from cancer and about 1.4 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in 2004. The National Institutes of Health estimate overall costs for cancer in the year 2003 at \$189.5 billion.

## **ABOUT CYTOPIA LIMITED**

Cytopia Limited is an Australian biotechnology company focused on the discovery and development of new drugs to treat cancer, immune disorders and cardiovascular diseases.

Cytopia Limited is a registered Pooled Development Fund and conducts its research and development *via* a subsidiary company Cytopia Research Pty Ltd.

### **Cytopia Research Pty Ltd**

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

It holds a worldwide exclusive license from the Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research to a number of these enzymes known as JAK1 and JAK2 kinases which are over-active in many inflammatory diseases and some cancers. These JAK kinases, which were discovered by Cytopia's Chief Scientific Officer Dr Andrew Wilks, are well-validated drug targets and Cytopia has developed a number of inhibitors with therapeutic potential.

Cytopia applies structure based rational drug design techniques that can accelerate the identification of active molecules and their refinement into drug candidates.

### ***Cancer program***

Cytopia's candidate drug has shown efficacy in six *in vivo* animal models of various cancers, including prostate cancer, breast, lymphoma and leukaemia.

We currently expect the Phase I human trial to be commenced in early 2005 subject to approval by regulatory authorities.

### ***Anti-Inflammatory Program***

Cytopia has generated highly specific and potent inhibitors of the JAK3 kinase which is of major interest for the prevention of transplant rejection and treatment of several inflammatory diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, asthma, dermatitis, psoriasis and eczema.

### ***Cardiovascular Program***

Cytopia recently bought the assets of Myomatrix Therapeutics LLC, based in Albany New York and established Cytopia Inc as a wholly-owned subsidiary to continue and expand the cardiovascular drug research being conducted by Myomatrix. The priority areas are heart failure and pulmonary hypertension.

### **Cytopia owns 14.4 million shares in Alchemia Limited**

Alchemia (ASX Code: ACL) is on schedule in its development of a generic version of synthetic heparin in partnership with Dow Chemical for manufacturing, and with American Pharmaceutical Products for marketing and regulatory matters. Alchemia has negotiated a 50:50 profit share with both companies.

In addition, Alchemia has made good progress in applying its VAST™ technology platform to the discovery of drug leads for cancer and novel antibiotics.

For more information please contact either:

Dr Kevin Healey  
CEO & Managing Director  
T: +0409 413 402  
E: [kevin.healey@cytopia.com.au](mailto:kevin.healey@cytopia.com.au)

Dr Andrew Wilks  
Chief Scientific Officer  
T: +61 3 9522 6911  
E: [andrew.wilks@cytopia.com.au](mailto:andrew.wilks@cytopia.com.au)

Mr Nicholas Mathiou  
CFO & Company Secretary  
T: 07 3871 3455  
E: [nicholas.mathiou@cytopia.com.au](mailto:nicholas.mathiou@cytopia.com.au)

or, visit our website at: [www.cytopia.com.au](http://www.cytopia.com.au).