

## ASX Announcement and Media Release

23 May 2003

### ***ABBOTT ANNOUNCES POSITIVE OPINION FOR HUMIRA™ IN EUROPE***

Health care company, Abbott Laboratories Inc announced yesterday it had received a positive opinion in relation to its product HUMIRA™ for the treatment of adult rheumatoid arthritis in Europe.

Excerpts from the Abbott Laboratories' announcement follow:

"Abbott Laboratories today announced that the European Medicines Evaluation Agency (EMA) has granted a positive opinion on HUMIRA™ (adalimumab), previously known as D2E7, for the treatment of adult rheumatoid arthritis (RA).

HUMIRA will become the first human monoclonal antibody approved in Europe for RA, and the first tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNF- $\alpha$ ) antagonist approved with an indication for use with methotrexate or as monotherapy.

The European Commission is expected to issue an authorization for the marketing of HUMIRA in European Union (E.U.) countries in approximately 90 days. Abbott filed for E.U. approval in April 2002. The positive opinion was granted through the EMA's Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products (CPMP)."

Peptech Limited Managing Director Stephen Kwik welcomed the announcement and looked forward to the issue of the authorisation for marketing of HUMIRA™ as Peptech Limited's key anti-tumour necrosis factor (TNF) intellectual property has been non-exclusively licensed to Abbott. Upon the authorisation for marketing, Peptech can expect to receive a second milestone payment from Abbott.

HUMIRA™, which controls the symptoms of RA and slows the progression of the disease, was recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Adults with moderately to severely active RA, who have had insufficient response to more traditional disease modifying antirheumatic drugs (DMARDs), can use HUMIRA™ to reduce signs and symptoms and inhibit the progression of structural damage.

A full copy of the Abbott media release is available on their website.

#### BACKGROUND

Peptech Limited, an Australian biotechnology company, focuses on the research and development of peptides and proteins in the areas of human pharmaceuticals and animal health.

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