

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

### CELLMID PUBLISHES DATA ON NOVEL PROPRIETARY FGF5 APTAMER

**SYDNEY, Tuesday, 9 February 2021: Cellmid Limited (ASX: CDY)** is pleased to advise that results of its research and development program into high performing FGF5 aptamers have been published in Scientific Reports, part of the Nature publishing group<sup>1</sup>.

Cellmid, via its Advangen Inc. subsidiary, has been researching novel FGF5 inhibitors, including highly specific aptamers since its acquisition in 2013. The FGF5 aptamer research is conducted in collaboration with the University of Hokkaido, Yokohama National University and the Chiba Institute of Technology.

Most recent results have shown that the newly identified aptamer constructs inhibiting FGF5 are highly effective and specific, as shown in FGF5 responsive cell lines. These findings have been published in Scientific Reports and are subject to a patent application filed by Advangen Inc., Cellmid's Japanese subsidiary. The patent application was published on 14 January 2021 and covers their composition as pharmaceutical FGF5 inhibitors for use against hair loss.

FGF5 is a critical regulator of hair growth, initiating the transition of hair follicles out of growth and into rest and fall. Cellmid, via its Advangen subsidiaries, markets a number of botanically based FGF5 inhibiting hair growth products under the évolis<sup>®</sup>, Jo-Ju<sup>®</sup> and Lexilis<sup>®</sup> brands.

Performance of the Company's FGF5 inhibitor technology and brands has previously been demonstrated via two published clinical studies, showing their efficacy against hair loss, and in promoting hair growth (ASX announcement dated 2 March 2017). Cellmid also holds a number of patents around key FGF5 inhibiting monoterpene molecules of plant origin.

The latest research demonstrates a significant technological advance into synthetic molecules with high specificity and affinity to the FGF5 protein. The research program targets the development of novel FGF5 binding RNA aptamers using a SELEX enrichment approach<sup>2</sup>. The aptamers were optimised for high affinity ( $K^d$  0.118 – 0.7 nM) of binding to FGF5, and high specificity, showing no binding activity with closely related FGF family members or the FGFR1 receptor. The aptamers were subsequently demonstrated to have biological FGF5 inhibitory activity via assays against an FGF5 responsive cell line.

The FGF5 inhibitor aptamers add to the Company's proprietary antiaging hair care technologies and underpin Cellmid's scientific leadership in the field. As part of

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<sup>1</sup> Amano, R., Namekata, M., Horiuchi, M. *et al.* Specific inhibition of FGF5-induced cell proliferation by RNA aptamers. *Sci Rep* **11**, 2976 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-82350-w>

<sup>2</sup> Systemic Evolution of Ligands by Exponential Enrichment (SELEX). The method for the selection of the aptamers (short folded nucleic acid sequences).



Cellmid's new product development program, further characterization of these novel FGF5 aptamers continues in Advangen's Tokyo Laboratories, via *in-vitro* and *ex-vivo* experimentation, alongside other programs ultimately directed to the development of novel formulations for hair loss in humans.

Approved for release by the Board of Directors of Cellmid.

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### **Cellmid Limited (ASX: CDY)**

Cellmid is a health and beauty-tech business growing shareholder value through the development, global distribution and sales of its proprietary brands of differentiated, clinically validated longevity and anti-aging solutions. Advangen Limited is Cellmid's wholly owned subsidiary engaged in the development and sale of first in class, best in class, clinically validated products for hair, skin and body. For further information, please see [www.cellmid.com.au](http://www.cellmid.com.au) and [www.evolisproducts.com.au](http://www.evolisproducts.com.au).

### **Forward looking statements**

This announcement may have forward-looking statements that are subject to risks and uncertainties. Such statements involve known and unknown risks that may cause the actual results, performance or achievements of Cellmid to be materially different from the statements in this announcement. Actual results could differ materially depending on factors such as the availability of resources, regulatory environment, the results of marketing and sales activities and competition.