**ASX ANNOUNCEMENT** **14 April 2025**

# Cynata Establishes New Scientific Advisory Board

**Melbourne, Australia; 14 April 2025:** Cynata Therapeutics Limited (ASX: "CYP", "Cynata", or the "Company"), a clinical-stage biotechnology company, has established a new Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), comprising globally recognised experts in the development of cell-based therapies.

The purpose of the SAB is to provide strategic scientific guidance, support and oversight of the Company's research and development activities.

The inaugural SAB members are:

- Professor John Rasko AO (Chair)
- Professor Igor Slukvin
- Dr Derek Hei

**Prof Rasko said:**

"*I have had the pleasure of working with Cynata for many years, including as the international coordinating Principal Investigator of Cynata's Phase 1 trial of CYP-001 in patients with steroid-resistant acute graft versus host disease. This widely-acclaimed research represents the first ever completed clinical trial worldwide involving iPSC-derived cells of any kind. Cynata's Cymerus™ iPSC[1]-based platform overcomes one of the major challenges in this field by facilitating the manufacture of consistent quality MSCs[2] in a highly scalable manner, without requiring new donors. I am honoured to be appointed the inaugural Chair of Cynata's SAB, and I look forward to working with Prof Slukvin and Dr Hei to help guide the Company's research and development strategy.*"

**Dr Kilian Kelly, Cynata's Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, said:**

"*We are delighted to formally establish our SAB, with three internationally renowned thought leaders. Collectively, they bring extensive and diverse experience, and importantly each of them has already made a substantial contribution to Cynata's progress to date. We are confident that their expert guidance will help Cynata to remain at the forefront of iPSC-based therapeutic development into the future.*"

**Scientific Advisory Board Profiles**

**Professor John Rasko AO** BSc (Med), MBBS (Hons), PhD, MAICD, FFSc (RCPA), DSc (Hon) UTAR, FRCPA, FRACP, FAAHMS

Professor Rasko is an Australian pioneer in the application of stem cells and genetic therapy as a clinical haematologist, pathologist and scientist. For 25 years he founded and directed the Department of Cell and Molecular Therapies at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and the Gene and Stem Cell Therapy Program, University of Sydney. He serves the Australian Government as Chair of GTTAC, Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (2008-26) and is a member of the WHO International Non-proprietary Names Programme. He was President of the International Society for Cell & Gene Therapy (ISCT) from 2018 to 2020.

With over 260 career publications he has an international reputation in gene and stem cell therapy, experimental haematology and molecular biology. He has made seminal discoveries that have advanced the understanding of stem cells and blood cell development, gene therapy technologies, cancer causation and treatment, human genetic diseases, molecular biology, human research ethics and regulation. He authored a popular book called "*Flesh Made New*" as a provocative history of stem cell promises and false hopes, recently revised and published in Hungarian. He is the recipient of national and international awards in recognition of his commitment to excellence in medical research, including appointment as an Officer of the Order of Australia.

**Professor Igor Slukvin** MD, PhD

Professor Slukvin is The Henry Pitot Professor in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Cell and Regenerative Biology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a clinician-scientist, whose research program focuses on the development of haematopoietic, vascular and mesenchymal lineages from human pluripotent stem cells. He is an inventor of the technology underlying Cynata's Cymerus™ manufacturing platform, and a co-founder of the Company.

Professor Slukvin made significant advances in understanding cellular and molecular pathways leading to blood, endothelial, and mesenchymal stem/stromal cell formation from human and nonhuman primate pluripotent stem cells (including iPSCs). He also contributed to the initial reports on reprogramming cells to become iPSCs and pioneered a transgene-free technology for the reprogramming of blood cells to iPSCs. He has mastered innovative technologies for the genetic engineering of iPSCs and developed several protocols for the scalable production of various cell types from iPSCs, aiming to provide a novel "off-the-shelf" source of cells for transfusion and cancer immunotherapy.

**Dr Derek Hei** BS, PhD

Dr Hei has over 30 years of experience developing cell and gene therapies with expertise in process/assay development, manufacturing, quality control and regulatory affairs.

Following his PhD, Dr Hei worked at Genentech and Cerus Corp, before taking a position at the University of Wisconsin to lead Waisman Biomanufacturing, a contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) that specializes in early-stage development of cell and gene therapies. At Waisman, he led several initiatives including the first National Stem Cell Bank and the development of some of the first iPSC lines to be successfully advanced into human clinical trials. He was also instrumental in the establishment of Cynata's Cymerus™ process at Waisman.

Subsequently, Dr Hei has continued to focus on iPSC-based therapies, with leadership roles at Fujifilm CDI, BlueRock Therapeutics, Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Clade Therapeutics, Kenai Therapeutics, where he is currently Chief Technology Officer. He has served as Adjunct Professor, Masters in Biotechnology Program, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for over 25 years, and is also a member of the SABs of WiCell and RoslinCT.

**-ENDS-**

**Authorised for release by Dr Kilian Kelly, CEO & Managing Director**

***CONTACTS:*** Dr Kilian Kelly, CEO & MD, Cynata Therapeutics, +61 (03) 7067 6940, kilian.kelly@cynata.com
Lauren Nowak, Media Contact, +61 (0)400 434 299, lauren@littlebigdeal.au

**About Cynata Therapeutics (ASX: CYP)**

Cynata Therapeutics Limited (ASX: CYP) is an Australian clinical-stage stem cell and regenerative medicine company focused on the development of therapies based on Cymerus™, a proprietary therapeutic stem cell platform technology. Cymerus™ overcomes the challenges of other production methods by using induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to achieve economic manufacture of cell therapy products, including mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs), at commercial scale without the limitation of multiple donors.

Cynata has demonstrated positive safety and efficacy data for its Cymerus™ product candidates CYP-001 and CYP-006TK, in Phase 1 clinical trials in steroid-resistant acute graft versus host disease (GvHD), and diabetic foot ulcers (DFU), respectively. Further clinical trials are now ongoing: a Phase 2 trial of CYP-001 in GvHD under a cleared US FDA IND; a Phase 1/2 trial of CYP-001 in patients undergoing kidney transplantation; and a Phase 3 trial of CYP-004 in osteoarthritis. In addition, Cynata has demonstrated utility of its Cymerus™ technology in preclinical models of numerous other diseases, including critical limb ischaemia, idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, asthma, heart attack, sepsis, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) and cytokine release syndrome.

**Cynata Therapeutics encourages all current investors to go paperless by registering their details with the designated registry service provider, Automic Group.**

[1] iPSC = induced pluripotent stem cell.
[2] MSC = mesenchymal stem (or stromal) cell.