

18 January 2023

ASX Announcement

## Nasodine Research Points to Potential Role in CRS

---

- **New research points to potential role of Nasodine in a new indication: chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS)**

**Firebrick Pharma Limited** (ASX: FRE) (the **Company** or **Firebrick**) is pleased to announce the publication of new research into Nasodine® Nasal Spray (“Nasodine”) identifying its potential in the management of chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS). Sponsored by Firebrick, the research was conducted at the University of Auckland and has now been published in the prestigious journal, *The Laryngoscope*<sup>1</sup>.

“To date, the development of Nasodine has focused on treatment of the common cold, which is generally caused by viruses,” said Firebrick Executive Chairman, Dr Peter Molloy. “This new research suggests it could also have a future role in bacterial CRS.”

CRS is an infection of the sinuses generally caused by strains of *Staph. aureus*. It is difficult to treat and becomes chronic because of the bacterium’s ability to shield itself from antibiotics and host immune responses by forming a protective ‘biofilm’.

The research evaluated for the first time the activity of Nasodine against *S. aureus* biofilms *in vitro* using a biofilm reactor model. Nasodine demonstrated time and concentration-dependent bacterial killing against intact biofilm with statistically significant reductions in viable bacteria with exposures as brief as 5 min. It consistently eradicated dispersed biofilm within 1 min.

The article concludes: “Nasodine is highly active against biofilms of *S. aureus* ATCC 6538 *in vitro*...Nasodine is an effective antibiofilm agent that holds promise for the management of sinonasal biofilms in CRS. Clinical trials are now required to determine whether this product offers clinical benefit for this condition.”

“Our clinical focus continues to be on Nasodine as a treatment for the common cold,” said Dr Molloy. “However, just as we have been exploring Nasodine’s potential in COVID-19, we may now want to consider its future development in CRS.”

This announcement was authorised for release by Peter Molloy, Executive Chairman, Firebrick Pharma Limited.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hale, S.J.M., Lux, C.A., Kim, R., Biswas, K., Tucker, S., Friedland, P., Mackenzie, B.W. and Douglas, R.G. (2023), In vitro Nasodine Can be an Effective Antibiofilm Agent for Biofilms that May Cause CRS. *The Laryngoscope*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/lary.30558>

## About CRS<sup>2</sup>

Chronic rhinosinusitis (CRS) is one of the most common chronic medical conditions worldwide, affecting all age groups. The estimated incidence of CRS is high: 12.3% in the USA, 10.9% in Europe and 13% in China.

In the US, the direct costs associated with CRS are estimated at US\$10–13 billion per year and indirect costs due to missed workdays, absenteeism and productivity loss are estimated to exceed US\$20 billion per year.

*Staphylococcus aureus* is one of the bacteria commonly found in CRS patients, and *S. aureus* biofilms are frequently associated with recalcitrant or recurrent disease.

## About Firebrick Pharma

Firebrick is a pharmaceutical company founded in 2012 to develop and commercialise a nasal spray treatment for the common cold based around the potential of povidone-iodine as a broad-spectrum antimicrobial agent. The Company owns numerous granted and pending patents, including a core patent family that covers the use of intranasal povidone-iodine for the treatment and prevention of the common cold and a second patent family covering the prevention of pandemic viral diseases, including COVID-19. The Company also has a third patent family covering the Nasodine formulation. Firebrick is completing two major clinical trials: A Phase 2 trial of Nasodine in COVID-19 and a Phase 3 trial for Nasodine, to confirm its efficacy as a treatment for the common cold and support international approvals. Positive Phase 3 trial results will also be important for securing regulatory approvals and partnerships in major markets outside Australia.

### Media enquiries:

Heidi Cuthbert  
+61 411 272 366  
[heidi.cuthbert@multiplier.com.au](mailto:heidi.cuthbert@multiplier.com.au)

### Investor enquiries:

[Investors@firebrickpharma.com](mailto:Investors@firebrickpharma.com)

---

<sup>2</sup> Albu S. Chronic Rhinosinusitis-An Update on Epidemiology, Pathogenesis and Management. J Clin Med. 2020 Jul 18;9(7):2285. doi: 10.3390/jcm907228.