



## PharmAust and Nihon Nohyaku Japan Enter Assignment Agreement of Joint Patents

**4 September 2017 – Perth, Australia:** Clinical-stage oncology company PharmAust Limited (ASX: PAA) has entered an agreement with Nihon Nohyaku Co Ltd (NNC) to assign NNC's interests in a joint patent portfolio to PharmAust. In return NNC will receive royalties on sales.

The portfolio consists of two patent families entitled *Anticancer agent comprising aminoacetonitrile compound as active ingredient*. These patents relate to a library of novel aminoacetonitrile (AADs) compounds, originally patented by Nihon Nohyaku, as anticancer agents.

Importantly, these AADs are related to but distinct from Monepantel, which PharmAust is developing for clinical trials in humans and dogs diagnosed with cancer.

PharmAust CEO Dr Richard Hopkins commented, "We are delighted Nihon Nohyaku has agreed to assign its joint intellectual property rights to PharmAust. This means PharmAust now fully owns rights to over 50 novel AAD compounds, which can potentially be used to develop a proprietary pipeline of anti-cancer compounds."

This complements endeavours to develop Monepantel as a lead therapy to treat cancers in dogs and humans. PharmAust was recently granted patents covering "methods of use" for Monepantel in cancer and non-cancer fields. The company is also progressing licensing discussions with Elanco, which own the rights to Monepantel and has registered the drug for use in animals. The recent agreement with NNC provides PharmAust with further scope to independently commercialise its intellectual property.

PharmAust has engaged its subsidiary Epichem to synthesise and optimise selected AAD candidates from the NNC library for screening in anti-cancer assays.

Dr Hopkins said, "The ability to access the in-house medicinal chemistry expertise at Epichem is a key competitive advantage of PharmAust. The Epichem team has optimised several drugs that are now in late-stage clinical trials so they really know what they're doing. We expect to announce the outcome of these pilot studies later in the year."

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**About PharmAust (PAA):**

PAA is a clinical-stage company developing targeted cancer therapeutics for both humans and animals. The company specialises in repurposing marketed drugs lowering the risks and costs of development. These efforts are supported by PAA's subsidiary, Epichem, a contract synthetic drug manufacturer forecast to generate Aus\$3m in revenues in 2017 at a CAGR of 28%.

PAA's lead drug candidate is Monopantel (MPL), a novel, potent and safe inhibitor of the mTOR pathway - a key driver of cancer. MPL has been evaluated in Phase 1 clinical trials in humans and dogs. MPL treatment was well-tolerated and produced a significant reduction in key prognostic biomarkers. PAA is uniquely positioned to commercialise MPL for treatment of human and veterinary cancers as it advances the drug into Phase 2 clinical trial.