PharmAust secures patent in US for new portfolio of anti-cancer drugs

16 November 2017 – Perth, Australia: Clinical-stage oncology company PharmAust Limited (ASX: PAA) has been granted a new patent in the United States covering its proprietary portfolio of novel anti-cancer drugs.

The patent (US_14/917,724) relates to a library of novel aminoacetonitrile (AADs) compounds, originally developed by Nihon Nohyaku but now wholly-owned by PharmAust, shown to have anti-cancer activity.

Importantly, these AADs are related to but distinct from Monepantel, which PharmAust is developing as a novel anti-cancer therapy. Monepantel is owned by Elanco while PharmAust owns the Intellectual Property rights to use this drug as anti-cancer treatment.

Dr Richard Hopkins, PharmAust's CEO commented, "Allowance of this patent secures PharmAust's ownership for over 50 novel AAD compounds in a major world market. Having ownership of these compounds, which have already been shown to have anti-cancer activity, enables PharmAust to develop its own pipeline of new cancer drugs."

We have now engaged our subsidiary Epichem to synthesise and optimise selected candidates from our novel AAD library. The ability to access the in-house medicinal chemistry expertise at Epichem highlights a key competitive advantage for PharmAust. Epichem's Drug Discovery team specialises in optimising drugs and has successfully generated a number of novel drugs for its clients that have progressed to clinical trials. We expect to announce the outcome of these studies later in the year."

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 support by PAA's subsidiary, Epichem, a highly successful contract medicinal chemistry company which is forecast to generate ~Aus$4m in revenues in the 2018 FY

PAA's lead drug candidate is monepantel (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.