



## **PharmAust new collaboration with leading cancer research institute on its MPL drug candidate**

**14 March 2018 – Perth, Australia:** PharmAust (ASX:PAA), a clinical-stage oncology company, is delighted to announce a collaboration with Dr Doug Fairlie, a leading cancer researcher based at the prestigious Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute (ONJCRI) in Victoria.

The aim of the collaboration is to better understand how PharmAust's leading clinical candidate, monepantel (MPL), is able to kill cancer cells. A further aim is to identify drug combinations that improve MPL potency against different types of cancers. These outcomes will be used to support and accelerate MPL's clinical development strategies in humans and dogs.

Further, the collaboration has been awarded a \$50,000 Innovation Connections Grant from the Commonwealth Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, which recognises the commercial potential of this partnership.

Dr Fairlie added, "We are excited about the potential of this project which builds upon the long-term research interests of our laboratory."

PharmAust CEO Dr Richard Hopkins said "This collaboration will build upon our current understanding of how MPL works. Determining whether MPL has a novel mode of action could unlock substantial commercial value and will also help inform our selection of cancers that will most likely respond to MPL treatment in clinical trials."

"We are very pleased about the grant award and particularly delighted to be working with Dr Fairlie and the ONJCRI, which is home to many of Australia's leading cancer researchers and clinicians. The translational capacity of this institute is formidable as it integrates both basic and clinical research with over 200 clinical trials in progress at any one time."

### **Enquiries:**

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**About the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute <http://www.onjcri.org.au>)**

The Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute is a leader in the development of experimental and breakthrough cancer treatments. We investigate and develop treatments for cancers of the breast, bowel, lung, melanoma, prostate, liver, gastrointestinal tract and brain. Our researchers and clinicians are running more than 200 clinical trials, giving patients access to potential new treatments including immunotherapies and personalised medicine.

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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 highly successful contract medicinal chemistry company which generated ~Aus\$3.05m in revenues in the 2017 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.