



15 August 2005

## **Phylogica and PharmAust sign partnering deal to expedite development of improved peptide-based therapeutics**

**Phylogica Ltd (ASX:PYC) and Mimotopes Pty Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of PharmAust Limited (ASX:PAA), have signed a partnering deal to work together using their complementary technology platforms to develop next generation peptide drugs.**

Phylogica's Phylomer® technology comprises unique peptides (protein parts) that block the unwanted and harmful interactions between proteins involved in a range of common diseases, including stroke, diabetes and asthma.

The Synphase™ platform owned by Mimotopes incorporates complementary technology that will enable the rapid production and optimisation of large libraries of the Phylomers identified by Phylogica as potential therapeutics.

Peptides are becoming increasingly important in the area of therapeutics, with a variety of new peptide drugs under development for cancer, pain, viral infections, diabetes and a host of endocrinological and neurological disorders. The peptide therapeutic market is currently estimated at US\$1b and growing at a staggering annual average rate of 40% (Business Communications Company, 2005).

Managing Director of Mimotopes, Dr Paul D'Sylva, said: "This Agreement aligns with our strategy of leveraging the position of Mimotopes as a leader in custom peptide synthesis for therapeutic applications through the formation of joint ventures with high quality drug discovery companies. This partnership with Phylogica positions Mimotopes well to participate in this large and growing market."

According to Dr D'Sylva, recent developments in several technologies related to the synthesis, screening, stabilisation and modification of peptides will facilitate the transit of peptide-based molecules to clinical trials and on to the market.

"This deal with Mimotopes fits with Phylogica's approach of forming strategic partnerships that will increase the commercial and therapeutic value of our peptide drug candidates through the adoption of new technologies," Dr Stewart Washer, Chief Executive Officer of Phylogica, said.

“We look forward to creating, with the aid of Mimotopes’ technology, the next generation of Phylomer® drug candidates with improved therapeutic profiles.”

### **About Phylogica**

Phylogica ([www.phylogica.com](http://www.phylogica.com)) was founded and incorporated in 2001 to commercialise its proprietary drug discovery technologies, developed over six years through a collaboration between the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in Perth ([www.ichr.uwa.edu.au](http://www.ichr.uwa.edu.au)) and the Fox Chase Cancer Center ([www.fccc.edu](http://www.fccc.edu)) in Philadelphia, United States. The founding research institutes have assigned their rights to the technologies into Phylogica in exchange for shareholdings in the company.

### **About Phylomers**

Phylomers® are stable fragments of naturally-occurring proteins (ie peptides) that can bind to target proteins and inactivate them as a result. Phylomers® can be selected for activity against specific proteins. Phylogica's proprietary Phylomer® Libraries consist of collections of millions of Phylomers® and represent a source of drug leads that double as agents for the validation of potential new targets.

### **About Mimotopes**

Mimotopes is a recognised leader in the development of pre-clinical peptides for biological and pharmaceutical applications. ([www.mimotopes.com](http://www.mimotopes.com)) Established in Melbourne, Australia in 1989, Mimotopes has sales offices and distribution channels in the US, UK, Europe, Japan, India and China. Mimotopes’ proprietary technologies in solid phase synthesis, scavenging applications and biomolecular capture and immobilisation, coupled with the extensive experience and in depth know-how of its highly trained staff, have made it one of the global leaders in its field.

**Further Comment:**  
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