



## Topical Microbicide Field Receives a Boost with Human Efficacy Result

**Melbourne, Australia; 10 February 2009:** Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, OTCQX:SPHRY) welcomes news that PRO2000 gel, a candidate microbicide similar to Starpharma's own VivaGel<sup>®</sup>, has demonstrated partial effectiveness in preventing HIV infection in women. The study also found that 99% of women in the trial reported that they would use a topical microbicide gel that was approved for HIV prevention.

These results are encouraging news for women seeking options to protect themselves against HIV infection. With the lack of any demonstration of efficacy with human trials of HIV vaccines, this result provides a real boost to the opportunity for topical microbicides such as VivaGel<sup>®</sup>.

Although the result from the completed clinical study is not statistically significant and is insufficient to enable registration, it is an important milestone for the product category. PRO2000 gel was also shown to have a good safety profile, no different from the placebo. These findings are significant for Starpharma, given that the active ingredient in PRO2000 gel is in many respects similar to that of VivaGel<sup>®</sup>.

"Given the similarity of the two products, this is excellent news for Starpharma. Importantly, VivaGel<sup>®</sup> has a number of differentiating factors including its activity in HIV, HSV-2 (genital herpes) and all clinically relevant strains of human papillomavirus, and its lack of absorption into the bloodstream," said CEO Dr Jackie Fairley.

The completed study also showed that another candidate microbicide, BufferGel<sup>®</sup>, which relies on a fundamentally different mechanism of action, was not effective in reducing the risk of HIV infection.

VivaGel<sup>®</sup> is currently being developed under two INDs for the prevention of HIV and genital herpes and is currently in Phase 2a human trials.

---

### About Starpharma

Starpharma Holdings Limited (ASX:SPL, OTCQX:SPHRY) is a world leader in the development of dendrimer nanotechnology for pharmaceutical, life-science and other applications. SPL has two operating companies, Starpharma Pty Ltd in Melbourne, Australia and DNT, Inc in the USA. Products based on SPL's dendrimer technology are already on the market in the form of diagnostic elements and laboratory reagents through licence arrangements with partners including Siemens and Merck KgA.

The Company's lead pharmaceutical development product is VivaGel<sup>®</sup> (SPL7013 Gel), a vaginal microbicide designed to prevent the transmission of STIs, including HIV and genital herpes. In September 2008 Starpharma signed a full licence agreement with SSL International plc (LSE:SSL) to develop a VivaGel<sup>®</sup> coated condom. SSL manufactures and sells Durex<sup>®</sup> condoms, the market-leading condom brand worldwide. Starpharma's receipts under the agreement are estimated to exceed A\$100m comprising royalties on SSL sales, further milestone payments, and development support.

In the wider pharmaceutical field Starpharma has specific programs in the areas of Drug Delivery and Drug Optimisation technologies (using dendrimers to control where and when drugs go when introduced to the body) and Targeted Diagnostics (using dendrimers as a scaffold to which both location-signalling and targeting groups are added to allow location of specific cell type, such as cancer cells). More broadly the company is exploring dendrimer opportunities in materials science applications including water remediation.

**Dendrimer:** A type of precisely-defined, branched nanoparticle. Dendrimers have applications in the medical, electronics, chemicals and materials industries.

**American Depositary Receipts (ADRs):** Starpharma's ADRs trade under the code **SPHRY** (CUSIP number 855563102). Each Starpharma ADR is equivalent to 10 ordinary shares of Starpharma as traded on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). The Bank of New York Mellon is the depositary bank. Starpharma's ADRs are listed on International OTCQX ([www.otcqx.com](http://www.otcqx.com)), a premium market tier in the U.S. for international exchange-listed companies, operated by Pink OTC Markets, Inc.

### Forward Looking Statements

This document contains certain forward-looking statements, relating to Starpharma's business, which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "promising", "plans", "anticipated", "will", "project", "believe", "forecast", "expected", "estimated", "targeting", "aiming", "set to", "potential", "seeking to", "goal", "could provide", "intends", "is being developed", "could be", "on track", or similar expressions, or by express or implied discussions regarding potential filings or marketing approvals, or potential future sales of product candidates. Such forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors that may cause actual results to be materially different from any future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such statements. There can be no assurance that any existing or future regulatory filings will satisfy the FDA's and other health authorities' requirements regarding any one or more product candidates nor can there be any assurance that such product candidates will be approved by any health authorities for sale in any market or that they will reach any particular level of sales. In particular, management's expectations regarding the approval and commercialization of the product candidates could be affected by, among other things, unexpected clinical trial results, including additional analysis of existing clinical data, and new clinical data; unexpected regulatory actions or delays, or

government regulation generally; our ability to obtain or maintain patent or other proprietary intellectual property protection; competition in general; government, industry, and general public pricing pressures; and additional factors that involve significant risks and uncertainties about our products, product candidates, financial results and business prospects. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described herein as anticipated, believed, estimated or expected. Starpharma is providing this information as of the date of this document and does not assume any obligation to update any forward-looking statements contained in this document as a result of new information, future events or developments or otherwise.

**For further information:**

<b>Media Buchan Consulting</b>		<b>Starpharma <a href="http://www.starpharma.com">www.starpharma.com</a></b>	
<b>Rebecca Wilson</b>	<b>Ellie Papathanasiou</b>	<b>Dr Jackie Fairley</b>	<b>Ben Rogers</b>
Tel: +61 3 9866 4722 Mob: +61 417 382 391 <a href="mailto:rwilson@bcg.com.au">rwilson@bcg.com.au</a>	Tel: +61 2 9237 2800 <a href="mailto:epapathanasiou@bcg.com.au">epapathanasiou@bcg.com.au</a>	Chief Executive Officer +61 3 8532 2704	Company Secretary +61 3 8532 2702 <a href="mailto:ben.rogers@starpharma.com">ben.rogers@starpharma.com</a>