Sirtex Medical Signs Agreements with Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre to Develop and Market Innovative Cancer Treatment Technology

Biotechnology and medical device company Sirtex Medical Limited (SRX) announces that, as foreshadowed on 18 April 2007, it has now executed two contracts with the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Melbourne, obtaining worldwide exclusive licence rights to an innovative cancer treatment technology based on radioprotector compounds.

Radioprotector compounds provide a means of protecting healthy tissue from the harmful effects of exposure to ionising radiation, potentially providing significant benefits to cancer patients receiving treatment by conventional external beam radiotherapy or selective internal radiation treatment (SIRT) with SIR-Spheres® microspheres.

Sirtex has signed a Licence Agreement with a minimum term of 10 years to develop and market products based on radioprotector technology developed by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, one of the world’s leading cancer centres. At the same time, Sirtex has also signed a two year Research Development Agreement to support an agreed research programme being undertaken by the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre to develop improved lead radioprotector compounds.

Sirtex’s CEO Mr Gilman Wong said: “the Company’s strategy continues to be to grow the SIR-Spheres microspheres business, as well as develop innovative oncology therapies and, in this regard, the Company’s investment in the radioprotector technology represents an important step forward”.

“We are strongly committed to developing and marketing cutting-edge technologies to maintain our leadership position in targeted cancer therapies”, Mr Wong said.

Peter MacCallum’s Prof. David Bowtell, Director of Research, said: “the Centre is very pleased to have the opportunity to work with an Australian company to help realise the enormous therapeutic potentialities of the research undertaken so far on radioprotector compounds”. He also commented that: “the continuing funding of the programme at Peter MacCallum could possibly open up other avenues of research inquiry that may help in consolidating a number of research collaborative opportunities with groups in both Australia and overseas”.

It is anticipated that the radioprotector compounds developed under these contracts may form the active component of products such as topically applied creams, aerosols, suppositories or systemic administration prior to radiation treatment or exposure, in order to reduce the effects of radiation on healthy tissue.

The technology is primarily aimed at providing benefit to patients undergoing external beam radiation treatment for cancers of the breast, head and neck, and prostate, as well as patients with primary and secondary liver tumours undergoing SIRT.
The use of a radioprotector could also increase the number of patients that can be treated with SIR-Spheres microspheres. In particular, patients with only a very small reserve of healthy liver could potentially be eligible for treatment.

**About Selective Internal Radiation Therapy using SIR-Spheres® microspheres**

Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) is a novel treatment for inoperable liver cancer that delivers high doses of radiation directly to the site of tumours. In a minimally invasive single treatment, millions of radioactive SIR-Spheres microspheres are infused via a catheter into the liver where they selectively target liver tumours with a dose of internal radiation up to 40 times higher than conventional radiotherapy, while sparing healthy tissue. SIRT using SIR-Spheres microspheres is approved for use in Australia, New Zealand, the USA (FDA approval), European Union (CE Mark) and Israel. It is also supplied in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and India. SIRT is available in approximately 168 treatment centres around the world, and more than 6,500 patients have been treated to date. SIR-Spheres® is a registered trademark of Sirtex SIR-Spheres Pty Ltd.

**About Liver Cancer**

Primary liver cancer is the sixth most common cancer, with an estimated 626,000 cases each year of hepatocellular carcinoma, the most prevalent form of the disease. (Some sources estimate 1.25 million cases worldwide per year). Secondary liver cancer is estimated to be the ultimate cause of death for one in three cancer sufferers. In particular, it affects up to 60% of patients with colorectal cancer, the third most common cancer worldwide. There are approximately 600,000 cases of secondary liver cancer from primary colorectal cancer alone each year. Liver tumours are inoperable in approximately 80% of cases, and are typically incurable with chemotherapy.

For more information, visit [www.sirtex.com](http://www.sirtex.com)

Contact: Gilman Wong, Sirtex CEO, +61-2-9936-1400