

**Biota Holdings Limited**

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*For Immediate Release*

## Biota Commences CEO Search

Melbourne Australia—29 August 2005. Biota announced today that it has commenced a search for an Australian-based CEO to succeed Peter Molloy, its current US-based CEO, after conclusion of his contract in January 2006.

Biota Chairman, John Grant, said that following consolidation of all Biota operations into the company's new Melbourne facility, it was now essential for Biota to have an Australian-based CEO. Mr Molloy had indicated to the Board that he was unavailable to relocate from the US.

Mr Grant said that the company would be very sorry to see Mr Molloy leave his role.

"Peter has made a tremendous contribution to the company," he said. "He will continue to operate as CEO and has agreed to facilitate the handover to his successor and thereafter to consult with the company on specific projects."

Mr Grant said that Biota was well positioned to manage the forthcoming leadership transition and to maintain its momentum.

"In particular, the change will have no impact upon Biota's resolve to seek substantial compensation for loss and damages from GSK following its failure to support Biota's influenza drug, Relenza," he said.

### About Biota

Biota is a world-leading antiviral drug discovery company with its headquarters in Melbourne, Australia. Biota was responsible for zanamivir, the first in class neuraminidase inhibitor, subsequently launched by GSK as Relenza™ in 1999 for the treatment of influenza. In partnership with Sankyo, Biota is developing second generation flu antivirals (LANI or Long Acting Neuraminidase Inhibitors). Biota is also developing potential therapies for the common cold, (Human Rhinovirus or HRV infection, RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) infection, and liver disease caused by hepatitis C. In partnership with Thermo Electron, Biota also markets the FLU OIA® diagnostics range for the rapid detection of influenza.

### Media Enquiries

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