

For Immediate Release

Relenza wins additional US Federal Approval

Melbourne Australia—Thursday 30 March 2006.

Biota Holdings Limited (ASX:BTA) today advise that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have approved the use of Relenza for prevention of influenza in adults and children 5 years of age and older.

An extract of the News Release dated 29 March 2006 is as follows:

"FDA Approves a Second Drug for the Prevention of Influenza A and B in Adults and Children

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) today approved the use of Relenza (zanamivir for inhalation) for prevention (prophylaxis) of influenza (flu) in adults and children 5 years of age and older. Relenza, an antiviral medication, was previously approved for the treatment of influenza A and B virus infections in adults and children. Tamiflu (oseltamivir phosphate) previously was approved for both prevention and treatment of flu; today's approval of Relenza for prevention provides Americans with another option for the prevention of influenza A and B infections."

"Biota shareholders should see this as a welcome extension of indications for Relenza, further opening up marketing opportunities in the key North American market", commented Peter Cook, Biota's CEO.

A full copy of the US FDA News Release is available on Biota's website under Latest News: www.biota.com.au.

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™ for the treatment and prevention of influenza. Relenza is currently being stockpiled by various governments for defence against avian (bird) flu.

Recent Biota research breakthroughs have included a series of candidate drugs aimed at RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus, bronchiolitis), subsequently licensed to MedImmune Inc. Biota is also engaged in early stage research targeting hepatitis C virus infection. In addition, Biota has key partnerships with Sankyo; for the development of second generation flu antivirals (called LANI or Long Acting Neuraminidase Inhibitors) and with Thermo Electron; Biota developed the FLU OIA® influenza diagnostics, currently marketed in the US.

™Relenza is a registered trademark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies
®FLU OIA is a registered trademark of Thermo Electron Corporation

**Further information available at www.biota.com.au.*

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