

For Immediate Release

Biota appoints Vice President Business Development

Melbourne Australia—6 April 2006.

Biota Holdings Limited (ASX:BTA) announced today the appointment of Dr Leigh Farrell, to the role of Vice President Business Development, effective from 24 April 2006.

Dr Leigh Farrell has more than 20 years experience in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries in Australia, the United States of America and Europe. He most recently spent approximately 4 years as an Associate Director at GBS Ventures Partners Limited, a specialist Life Sciences Venture Capital Fund. Prior to joining GBS, Leigh was Research Manager at Johnson & Johnson Research Pty Ltd, where he was responsible for external research programs, business development and licensing. Leigh was formerly the Chief Executive Officer of Gene Shears Pty Limited, a human health and agriculture ribozyme technology business, based on intellectual property initially developed by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

Biota CEO, Peter Cook said that Leigh would add significantly to Biota's capability through his strong commercial background and his extensive international connections.

Leigh received a BSc (Hons) and PhD from the Department of Biochemistry, Monash University. His post doctoral experience has been with Washington University Department of Biology, St Louis and with CSIRO Division of Plant Industry.

About Biota

Biota is a world-leading antiviral drug discovery company based in Melbourne, with key expertise in viral respiratory diseases, particularly influenza. Biota developed the first-in-class neuraminidase inhibitor drug, zanamivir, (Relenza) and through a partnership with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) brought it to market. Relenza is currently being stockpiled by various governments for defense against avian influenza.

Work has been underway at Biota for some time to develop a new generation of neuraminidase inhibitors designed to be more active and longer acting than the first generation products.

Biota also collaborated with Inverness Medical to develop the FLU OIA influenza diagnostics range for the rapid detection of influenza, which has been marketed since 1999.

TMRelenza 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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