

**Biota Holdings Limited**

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*For immediate release*

## **Biota appoints new Director**

Melbourne, Australia – 8 September 2006

Biota Holdings Limited (ASX: BTA) announced today the appointment of Mr Paul Bell as a non executive Director.

Biota Chairman, John Grant, said that Mr Bell brings to the Board invaluable international pharmaceutical experience gained at senior executive level and is an experienced Australian public company director.

Mr Bell was formerly President of Merck & Co Inc's Asia Pacific Human Health Division between 1997 and 2002 and a member of the international pharmaceutical company's Management Committee. Paul is currently a Director of Cochlear Limited, Gropep Limited and Bio-Link Partners Ltd.

Mr Bell is also Chairman of Westmead Millennium Institute Advisory Board, a Member of the Pharmaceutical Partnerships Program Committee and a Member of the Business Development Advisory Board of Garvan Institute of Medical Research.

### **About Biota**

Biota is a leading antiviral drug development company based in Melbourne, with key expertise in respiratory diseases, particularly influenza. Biota developed the first-in-class neuraminidase inhibitor, zanamivir, and subsequently marketed by GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) as Relenza. Relenza is currently being stockpiled by a number of national governments for defense against avian influenza. Biota receives royalties from sales of Relenza.

Recent Biota research breakthroughs have included a series of candidate drugs aimed at RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus, bronchiolitis), subsequently licensed to MedImmune Inc. Biota has Phase I clinical trials underway with HRV (human rhinovirus) and 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 influenza antivirals (called LANI or Long Acting Neuraminidase Inhibitors) and with Thermo Electron (Inverness Medical); Biota developed the FLU OIA<sup>®</sup> influenza diagnostics, currently marketed in the US.

<sup>™</sup>Relenza is a registered trademark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies.

<sup>®</sup>FLU OIA & FLU OIA A/B are registered trademarks of Thermo Electron Corporation.

*\*Further information available at [www.biota.com.au](http://www.biota.com.au).*

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