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*For Immediate Release*

## **Biota Acquires Victorian College of Pharmacy Relenza Royalty**

Melbourne, Australia – 2 July 2007

Biota Holdings Ltd (ASX:BTA) and the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University today announced they have executed an agreement under which Biota will pre-pay the royalty rights to the anti-influenza drug Relenza currently held by the Victorian College of Pharmacy, Monash University.

Under the terms of the agreement the Victorian College of Pharmacy receive a cash payment. A further payment will be triggered should future sales of Relenza meet an agreed target value. Specific terms of the agreement were not disclosed.

Commenting on today's announcement, Victorian College of Pharmacy Dean, Professor Bill Charman said, "*Biota's pre-payment provides the College certainty of income. The College remains extremely proud of its pioneering work which led to the development of Relenza*".

Biota CEO, Peter Cook added, "*Biota's intentions to secure control of the Australian research institutions outstanding interests in Relenza royalties have now been completed. We have always been well-served by the Victorian College of Pharmacy and we will explore ways to work together in the future*".

### **About Relenza**

Relenza is an inhaled drug for the prevention and treatment of influenza, discovered in Australia by Biota funded scientists. Its discovery built on important neuraminidase research conducted previously by the Molecular and Health Technologies Division of CSIRO and the Victorian College of Pharmacy.

Biota licensed zanamivir to GlaxoSmithKline in 1990 on an exclusive worldwide basis, for development and commercialisation. Biota is entitled to a 7% royalty on sales of Relenza by GSK through to the end of the product's patent life. For their part in the drug's discovery, the Victorian College of Pharmacy received a share of Biota's royalties at 0.25% of Relenza sales.

## **About Biota**

Biota is a leading antiviral drug development company based in Melbourne Australia, with key expertise in respiratory diseases, particularly influenza. Biota developed the first-in-class neuraminidase inhibitor, zanamivir, subsequently marketed by GlaxoSmithKline as Relenza.

Biota research breakthroughs have included a series of candidate drugs aimed at respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) or bronchiolitis, licensed to MedImmune Inc. and novel nucleoside analogues designed to treat hepatitis C virus (HCV) infections, licensed to Boehringer Ingelheim. Biota has clinical trials underway with its lead compound for human rhinovirus (HRV) infection in patients with compromised respiration or immune systems. In addition, Biota has key partnerships with Daiichi-Sankyo for the development of second generation influenza antivirals and with Inverness Medical to market Biota developed FLU OIA influenza diagnostics.

Relenza™ is a registered trademark of the GlaxoSmithKline group of companies.

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

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