

Biota Holdings Limited

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Biota appoints new Chairman

Biota Holdings Limited (ASX: BTA) announced today the appointment of Dr James Fox as a non executive Director and Chairman, effective 27 February 2009.

The Board is pleased to welcome Dr Fox, who is an experienced public company director. He is a director of Air New Zealand Limited, Futuris Limited, MS Research Ltd and The Technology Partnership PLC.

Dr Fox is a successful businessman with strong financial and commercial skills. He has significant experience in commercialising innovative technologies and growing a global business. He was formerly CEO of Vision Systems, a Melbourne based technology development company, which he led until its takeover by a large US based company, Danaher.

Dr Fox will succeed Mr John Grant who has been Chairman since 2001.

About Biota

Biota is a leading anti-infective 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 treatment of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) disease, licensed to AstraZeneca 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 a key partnership with Daiichi-Sankyo for the development of second generation influenza antivirals. Inverness Medical markets Biota's co-developed OIA FLU influenza diagnostics.

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

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

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