

ASX Release

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## Epichem Successful in AusTrade Grant

**PharmAust Limited (ASX: PAA)** is pleased to announce that the Australian Tropical Medicine Commercialisation Grants Programme, through the support of Australia's Trade and Investment Ministry, will provide \$250,000 for a project entitled "Novel compounds for the treatment of Leishmaniasis in humans and animals," to be led by its subsidiary Epichem in partnership with the Swiss-based Drugs for Neglected Disease *initiative* (DND*i*).

Leishmaniasis is a potentially fatal parasitic disease spread by various species of sand fly. Already a human health issue in 98 countries, 350 million people are estimated to be at risk of infection, most notably poor populations living in remote areas. Leishmaniasis is also a significant disease in a number of animals, especially dogs in many parts of Europe and North America.

The grant will see Epichem provide the synthetic and medicinal chemistry component of a research program focused on developing new treatments for leishmaniasis in collaboration with the DND*i* team. Any human drugs resulting from the project will be for the benefit of DND*i*, but Epichem has the right to commercialise treatments for leishmaniasis in animals.

Twelve applications to the ATMCG programme have been successful, four are from Victoria, four are from Queensland, two are from NSW and two are from WA. Five of the successful applicants are private companies, two are independent research institutes and five are from Australian universities.

### About Epichem

Epichem is a wholly owned subsidiary of the ASX listed company PharmAust Limited. Located in Technology Park, Western Australia, Epichem has been delivering products and services in synthetic and medicinal chemistry to the global drug discovery and pharmaceutical industries in 35 countries worldwide for over 12 years. Epichem has a newly constructed state-of-the-art laboratory and has world class equipment and expertise in synthetic and medicinal chemistry for the cost effective synthesis of drug analogue libraries and intermediates. Epichem has considerable expertise and experience in multidisciplinary and multicentre drug discovery projects and is actively working with many clients and collaborators including the not-for-profit Drugs for Neglected Disease *initiative* (DND*i*) as part of a consortium to find a cure for Chagas Disease. More information at [www.epichem.com.au](http://www.epichem.com.au)

### About Australian Tropical Medicines Commercialisation Grants Programme

The Australian Tropical Medicine Commercialisation Grants programme helps Australian businesses and public sector research organisations to develop pathways to commercialise Australian tropical medical research in partnership with international organisations. Grant funding totalling \$7.1 million will help build connections between Australian research institutes and the global health sector, including international pharmaceutical companies and philanthropic organisations.

### **About DNDi**

A not-for-profit research and development organization, DNDi works to deliver new treatments for neglected diseases, in particular leishmaniasis, human African trypanosomiasis, Chagas disease, specific filarial infections, paediatric HIV, mycetoma, and hepatitis C. Since its inception in 2003, DNDi has delivered six treatments: two fixed-dose antimalarials (ASAQ and ASMQ), nifurtimox-eflornithine combination therapy (NECT) for late-stage sleeping sickness, sodium stibogluconate and paromomycin (SSG&PM) combination therapy for visceral leishmaniasis in Africa, a set of combination therapies for visceral leishmaniasis in Asia, and a paediatric dosage form of benznidazole for Chagas disease. DNDi has established regional disease-specific platforms, which bring together partners in disease-endemic countries to strengthen existing clinical research capacity, as well as to build new capacity where necessary.

[www.dndi.org](http://www.dndi.org)

**For further details please contact:**

**Dr Wayne Best**

**Managing Director**

**Epichem Pty Ltd**

**+61 (08) 6167-5200**

[www.epichem.com.au](http://www.epichem.com.au)