

## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

### **Exopharm's LEAP Technology for Advanced EV Medicines from Blood Components**

- Exopharm's LEAP technology provides a way for blood centres to expand their businesses with new products and help patients and medical professionals within their distribution chain
- Non-binding Heads of Agreement signed with the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service on the use of Exopharm's LEAP technology for EV purification from blood components
- Exopharm will present a webinar in collaboration with the Blood Centers of America to announce findings of a human study of EV medicines from platelets and discuss the use of Exopharm's LEAP technology to produce EV products from other blood components

**6 April 2021, Melbourne, Australia:** Exopharm Limited (ASX:EX1) announces that it is building multiple streams of revenue from licensing and partnerships. Enabling leading blood service organisations to manufacture new extracellular vesicle (EV) medicines from their blood components using Exopharm's LEAP technology is part of that strategy.

#### Non-binding Heads of Agreement (HOA) with the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service (FRCBS)

Out of this commercial activity comes a non-binding Heads of Agreement (HOA) with the Finnish Red Cross Blood Service (FRCBS). The HOA sets out the basis for FRCBS to conduct due diligence, and for both parties to undertake further discussions in relation to entering into a definitive agreement for FRCBS to license Exopharm's LEAP technology on commercial terms and to produce and sell EVs isolated from blood components using LEAP.

FRCBS is the nationwide blood service provider in Finland, is an active member of the European Blood Alliance, and holds a leadership position in Europe in developing EV medicines. In addition to research and development focused on the isolation of EVs from therapeutic cells, FRCBS is a founding member of the EV Ecosystem Project (a consortium of Business Finland and 13 partners) and the Academy of Finland-funded Flagship GeneCellNano, both of which aim to develop applied solutions with EV therapeutics.

"FRCBS has been working for many years on developing potential uses of extracellular vesicles from blood components such as platelets and plasma. A critical challenge has been purifying EVs efficiently and reproducibly. Once I understood the potential of LEAP for the purification of EVs from our blood components, it was clear the value that a collaboration could provide." said Dr

Saara Laitinen, R&D Manager at FRCBS and leader of the National EV Consortium, EVE.

“The Finnish Red Cross Blood Service has a long-standing tradition of being at the cutting edge of blood transfusion and therapies in Europe. Dr Laitinen and her team are the perfect first partners for manufacturing Plexaris and other blood EV products for Europe. We are equally excited to be preparing to transfer the LEAP technology to FRCBS so they can produce blood cell derived EV medicines,” said Dr Chris Baldwin, Exopharm’s Chief Commercial Officer. “For Exopharm, this is the first step in a series of anticipated licensing opportunities in 2021 for LEAP.”

Exopharm recently completed a Phase I clinical trial using off-the-shelf Plexaris product – EVs derived from blood platelets - and reported good safety outcomes and validation of the manufacturing process.

#### Blood Centers of America (BCA) presentation

Blood Centers of America (BCA) is a national organisation comprising over 60 independent member centres and is the largest blood supply network in the U.S. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, Exopharm will host a webinar in collaboration with BCA. Attending BCA member centres will hear from FRCBS’ Dr Laitinen, who will discuss the potential for EV medicines from blood components such as platelets and red blood cells, and from Dr Baldwin, who will outline the use Exopharm’s LEAP technology to purify EVs from a wide range of sources.

By the Board - this announcement has been authorised for release by the board.

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## **ABOUT EXOPHARM**

Exopharm (ASX:EX1) is a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company using exosomes (extracellular vesicles (EVs)) from cells to generate a new class of transformative medicines.

Various Exopharm EV products harness the powerful natural ability of EVs to efficiently target cells and transfer selected materials into cells and across barriers. Exopharm has two exclusive proprietary technologies that extend the utility of EVs into engineered EV medicines (EEVs): the LOAD technology improves loading of nucleic medicines into EVs, and the EVPS technology allows EVs to be directed towards selected cell types. Exopharm uses combinations of LOAD and EVPS to develop a pipeline of EEV products aimed at treating a wide scope of medical problems including neurological diseases, infectious diseases, cancer, and fibrosis.

Exopharm's LEAP technology solves the challenge of purifying EVs at large scale. With LEAP, Exopharm is also developing naïve (or natural) EVs (NEVs) from adult stem cells and platelets as regenerative medicine products. NEVs have the potential to deliver the regenerative benefits of cells without the challenges of administering cells to patients. NEV products target a broad range of medical problems including osteoarthritis, autoimmune conditions, acute injury and chronic injury.

## **ABOUT FINNISH RED CROSS BLOOD SERVICE**

FRC Blood Service, is an independent, a not-for-profit supplier of blood products and laboratory services. Our services comprise recruiting blood donors, organising blood donation, collecting blood and testing the donated blood. We use the donated blood to make cellular blood products which we then deliver to hospitals for use in treating patients. We also operate a Stem Cell Registry. In addition to the experience and know-how on collection, testing and manufacturing of blood components as well as cell therapy products FRC Blood Service has ongoing research and development on advanced cellular therapy products (ATMP) and extracellular vesicles (EV) from therapeutic cells including technology know-how of special focus on mesenchymal stroma cell, red blood cell and platelet products. FRC Blood Service leads EV Ecosystem project (Business Finland and 13 partners) and is elementary part of Academy of Finland funded Flagship GeneCellNano both aiming for applied solutions in EV therapies. FRC Blood Service aims for novel EV therapeutics in wound healing, traumatic brain injury repair and drug delivery vehicles.

## **FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This announcement contains forward-looking statements which incorporate an element of uncertainty or risk, such as 'intends', 'may', 'could', 'believes', 'estimates', 'targets', 'aims', 'plans' or 'expects'. These statements are based on an evaluation of current corporate estimates, economic and operating conditions, as well as assumptions regarding future events. These events are, as at the date of this announcement, expected to take place, but there cannot be any guarantee that such events will occur as anticipated or at all given that many of the events are outside of Exopharm's control or subject to the success

of the Development Program. Furthermore, the Company is subject to several risks as disclosed in the Prospectus dated 6 November 2018.

### **INHERENT RISKS OF INVESTMENT IN BIOTECHNOLOGY COMPANIES**

There are a number of inherent risks associated with the development of biopharmaceutical products to a marketable stage. The lengthy clinical trial process is designed to assess the safety and efficacy of a drug prior to commercialisation and a significant proportion of drugs fail one or both of these criteria. Other risks include uncertainty of patent protection and proprietary rights, whether patent applications and issued patents will offer adequate protection to enable product development, the obtaining of necessary drug regulatory authority approvals and difficulties caused by the rapid advancements in technology. Companies such as Exopharm are dependent on the success of their research and development projects and on the ability to attract funding to support these activities. Investment in research and development projects cannot be assessed on the same fundamentals as trading and manufacturing enterprises. Therefore, investment in companies specialising in drug development must be regarded as highly speculative. Exopharm strongly recommends that professional investment advice be sought prior to such investments.