PharmAust secures broad patent in US for non-cancer applications of Monepantel

10th October 2017 – Perth, Australia: PharmAust (ASX: PAA), a clinical-stage oncology company, has been granted a new patent in the United States covering the use of its lead drug Monepantel (MPL) for non-cancer applications including neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes and age-related disorders.

The patent (US 9,790,176), entitled **"Compounds For The Treatment Of mTOR Pathway Related Diseases",** relates to the use of aminoacetonitrile derivatives (AADs) for the treatment of mTOR pathway-related diseases and provides the company with protection for this IP until 2033.

Aminoacetonitrile derivatives include the Elanco compound MPL that PharmAust has patented for cancer and non-cancer applications and which the company is testing in clinical trials.

PharmAust CEO Dr Richard Hopkins commented "In addition to granted patents covering the use of AADs to treat cancer, PharmAust has secured a methods patent covering the use of these compounds for non-cancer indications such as neurodegenerative diseases, diabetes and age-related disorders.

PharmAust's 'non-oncology' family of patents have now been granted in Europe and the US, which represent two major global markets."

The mTOR pathway is central in cellular metabolism and as such offers a key point of regulation of human disease. There is increasing evidence that the mTOR pathway plays a major role in these diseases. The company has initiated efforts to explore potential applications for MPL in these indications.

This patent expands the range of therapeutic indications that can be targeted, enabling the company to explore new commercial opportunities in major markets.

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About PharmAust (PAA):
PAA is a clinical-stage company developing targeted cancer therapeutics for both humans and animals. The company specialises in repurposing marketed drugs lowering the risks and costs of development. These efforts are support by PAA's subsidiary, Epichem, a highly successful contract synthetic drug manufacturer which is forecast to generate ~Aus$4m in revenues in the 2018 FY

PAA's lead drug candidate is monepantel (MPL), a novel, potent and safe inhibitor of the mTOR pathway - a key driver of cancer. MPL has been evaluated in Phase 1 clinical trials in humans and dogs. MPL treatment was well-tolerated and produced a significant reduction in key prognostic biomarkers. Further, 50% of end-stage Individuals achieved stable disease at low therapeutic doses providing support for MPL efficacy observed in preclinical studies.

PAA is uniquely positioned to commercialise MPL for treatment of human and veterinary cancers as it advances the drug into Phase 2 clinical trial.