



## ASX ANNOUNCEMENT

11 August 2008

### TISSUE THERAPIES: FIRST PATIENT TREATED WITH VITROGRO®

Australian biomedical company **Tissue Therapies (ASX:TIS)** has today commenced a human trial of its VitroGro® technology which could revolutionise the rapidly growing venous, pressure and diabetic ulcer market through effective and efficient treatment.

Tissue Therapies' Chairman, Mr Roger Clarke said the growing global chronic skin ulcer market (diabetic, pressure and venous) was estimated to be worth US\$4 billion annually worldwide.

"The human trial of VitroGro® is the culmination of ten years of research and development and follows successful preclinical and human skin cell trials conducted in the laboratory," he said.

"We believe VitroGro® has the potential to save both lives and limbs and, based on laboratory research to date, to generate a strong global business for Tissue Therapies."

Australian inventor of the VitroGro® technology Professor Zee Upton said that non-healing diabetic, pressure and venous ulcers alone currently caused an amputation every 30 seconds across the world.

"Using VitroGro® could potentially help relieve some of these drastic personal, clinical and financial impacts," she said.

"Imagine living with an ulcer and up to four layers of dressings or compression hosiery during the height of summer, with pain, reduced mobility and a reliance on carers and the health system, for potentially up to six months or until your limb is amputated?"

"VitroGro® has the potential to significantly reduce healing times and improve patients' quality of life through less pain, regaining mobility and reducing the burden on others."

"Our studies show that VitroGro® will assist in the fast and effective treatment of ulcers by boosting the natural proteins in normal skin that encourage the proliferation and migration of healthy cells."

The first human trial of the VitroGro® synthetic protein technology is taking place under the direction of internationally eminent Chief Clinical Investigator and Vascular Surgeon Professor Michael Stacey at Fremantle Hospital in Western Australia on a patient with a venous ulcer.

Professor Stacey said the application of VitroGro® was very simple.

"If this is successful, the new product could reduce the treatment time for thousands of patients with chronic wounds and would simultaneously cut treatment costs. A big advantage of the substance is that it is relatively inexpensive compared to the other growth factors which can be very expensive," Professor Stacey said.

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Mr Clarke said the expected positive results are likely to lead to the commercialisation of VitroGro® within two years for widespread use on ulcer and burns for a potential market of more than 200 million people annually worldwide.

“While Tissue Therapies plans to focus on the application of VitroGro® on the chronic ulcer market, it also intends to continue with its burns application work,” he said.

VitroGro®’s novel protein formulation allows the skin to heal itself by substantially accelerating cell growth, cell migration and protein production; the essential elements of tissue repair and wound healing.

Mr Clarke said the start of the human trial coincided with a capital-raising to fund the large scale manufacturing of the VitroGro® to maximise future sales, provide additional working capital and fund further wound care product development.

## **ENDS**

### **Media Launch**

A media launch to celebrate the first patient being treated will take place at 12.00noon (WST) on Monday 11 August 2008 at Fremantle Hospital (B Block). All media are welcome to attend. Please ask for Mr Baden Pratt.

### **Further information:**

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### **About Tissue Therapies Limited**

Tissue Therapies Limited is an Australian company developing biomedical technologies for wound healing, tissue repair and various cell culture applications.

The Company has worldwide exclusive rights to commercialise VitroGro®, a technology developed by tissue engineering experts at the Institute for Health and Biomedical Innovation at QUT for enhancing cell growth and migration. VitroGro® has particular commercial applications in wound healing, tissue regeneration, stem cell therapies and other cell culture uses.

Based on its VitroGro® technology, Tissue Therapies is developing more effective medical treatments for wound healing including chronic ulcers and burns,

Tissue Therapies also provides cell culture reagents to enhance the growth of mammalian cells for emerging cell-based therapies, along with research and industrial cell culture markets internationally.

More information: [www.tissuetherapies.com](http://www.tissuetherapies.com)