

**ASX/Media Release**

**Sun Biomedical Researcher Recognised in National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Excellence Awards**

**Melbourne and Perth, AUSTRALIA 24 September 2015:** The Chief Scientific Advisor for Sun Biomedical Limited (ASX: SBN) subsidiary Dimerix Bioscience Limited has been acknowledged as one of Australia's leading researchers at the NHMRC Research Excellence Awards in Canberra.

Associate Professor Kevin Pflieger from the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research (Perkins) and The University of Western Australia (UWA) received the award for the Highest Ranked Biomedical Level 2 Career Development Fellowship, which was presented by Australia's Federal Minister for Health Sussan Ley.

Associate Professor Pflieger was recognized for his research focused on receptors throughout the body that are the target of many currently used medicines. Many treatments result in unexplained effects or side effects due to a lack of understanding of their mechanism of action at the molecular level.

Associate Professor Pflieger's work into these mechanisms seeks to improve the effectiveness of common medicines and forms the basis for the world-leading technology being commercialised globally by Sun Biomedical.

The Company recently recruited the first patient into a Phase II study of an innovative new treatment, known as DMX-200, that combines two different drugs to treat chronic kidney disease. DMX-200 was identified using the core technology developed by Associate Professor Pflieger and his colleagues.

DMX-200 combines a drug called irbesartan, an off-patent drug used to treat hypertension and chronic kidney disease patients, and propagermanium<sup>1</sup>.

Preclinical data have shown combining the compounds (irbesartan and US-sourced propagermanium) blocks an inflammatory response that prevents the kidneys from functioning properly and results in the release of protein into the urine, called proteinuria. The primary goal of the study is to demonstrate the safety of DMX-200 in patients with chronic kidney disease. Secondary endpoints include reduction of levels of protein in the urine in patients with the disease.

**Associate Professor Kevin Pflieger**

Kevin is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) RD Wright Biomedical Research Fellow (Level 2) and Head of Molecular Endocrinology and Pharmacology at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research (formerly Western Australian Institute for Medical Research, WAIMR) and The University of Western Australia (UWA). Kevin was Chief Scientific Officer of Dimerix Bioscience from 2008 until Dimerix became a public company in June 2014 where he continues in the role of Chief Scientific Advisor. He was awarded his MA and PhD from Cambridge and Edinburgh Universities and is a former NHMRC Peter Doherty Research Fellow and Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow. He was awarded Western Australian Young Scientist of the Year 2009, NHMRC 10 of the Best Research Projects 2010, Australian Museum Eureka Prize for Emerging Leader in Science 2011, The Endocrine Society Early Investigators Award 2012, Western Australia Young Tall Poppy Science Award 2012, Endocrine Society of Australia Mid-Career Research Award 2014 and UWA Vice-Chancellor's Mid-Career Research Award 2015.

<sup>1</sup>. Propagermanium is available in different forms. Some forms are available as a dietary supplement in the US, and in Japan, a form is available as a prescription treatment for hepatitis B

Kevin is one of the world's foremost authorities on the use of bioluminescence resonance energy transfer (BRET) technologies to study G protein-coupled receptors (GPCRs), one of the most important classes of drug targets. In his position at the Perkins and UWA, he co-invented patented technology enabling study of receptor interactions. This intellectual property was assigned to Dimerix, and subsequently acquired by Sun Biomedical Limited.

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#### **About Dimerix Bioscience Limited**

Sun Biomedical Limited's wholly owned subsidiary Dimerix Bioscience Limited is a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company committed to discovering and developing new therapeutic paradigms identified using its proprietary screening assay, termed Receptor-Heteromer Investigation Technology (Receptor-HIT). This assay enables the identification of pairs of receptors that function in a joint manner (interact) when ligands, small molecule drugs, peptides or antibodies, bind to them. The Receptor-HIT technology was used to identify DMX-200 and an internal drug development program, initially for the treatment of a subset of patients with chronic kidney disease. In addition to its own therapeutic programs, the company also earns revenue by providing this technology to global pharmaceutical firms. Sun Biomedical acquired DMX-200, and the Receptor-HIT technology, through its acquisition of Dimerix Bioscience Limited, which completed in early July 2015.