

29 August 2006

Lead compound ATL1102 - intellectual property portfolio expanded with patent granted in Japan

- **Term runs till 2019 coinciding with US, European and Australian patents**
- **Extensive patent protection portfolio supports future commercialisation strategy for the treatment of multiple sclerosis (MS), asthma and other diseases.**

Antisense Therapeutics Limited (ANP) is pleased to announce that the Japanese Patent Office has granted a patent No.: 3834204 entitled "Antisense modulation of integrin α 4 expression" which covers ANP's lead compound ATL1102 until 2019.

The patent granted forms part of the extensive portfolio of intellectual property protecting ATL1102 and its applications in the treatment of MS, asthma and other diseases. These include granted patents in the US and Australia which run till 2018 and 2019 respectively. In Europe, the Company has recently received notification from the European Patent Office of their intention to grant a patent on ATL1102 that would also run till 2019. In Europe and Australia, claims to ATL1102 can be extended to 2024 once the drug is registered.

Antisense Therapeutics has an exclusive license to ATL1102 from its collaboration partner Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc. in the US.

ATL1102 is a second generation antisense inhibitor of integrin α 4, a subunit of the immune system protein VLA-4 (Very Late Antigen-4) and is currently in Phase II clinical trials as a treatment for MS. VLA-4 is a clinically validated target in MS. Antisense inhibition of VLA-4 has demonstrated positive effects in a number of animal models of inflammatory disease including MS and asthma.

The granting of the Japanese patent is an important step in ANP's business strategy to provide comprehensive intellectual property protection for ATL1102 on a global basis. Alongside the patent protection provided by the above patents, ATL1102 is also covered by other Isis Pharmaceuticals antisense technology and manufacturing patents and applications to which ANP has a world-wide license. The IP that is in place to support the successful commercialisation of ATL1102 is an integral part of the value created by the Company.

About Antisense Therapeutics Limited

Antisense Therapeutics Limited (ASX: ANP) is an Australian publicly listed biopharmaceutical drug discovery and development company. Its mission is to create, develop and commercialise novel antisense pharmaceuticals for large unmet markets. ANP's major shareholders include Circadian Technologies Limited (ASX: CIR) and Isis Pharmaceuticals Inc (NASDAQ: ISIS).

Contact Information:

Website: www.antisense.com.au
Managing Director – Mark Diamond +61 3 9827 8999
Company Secretary – Kathryn Andrews +61 3 9827 8999
Media – Market Connect (Simon Watkin) +61 3 9686 9931