

**Media Release**  
**27 November 2012**

## **Hatchtech Mechanism of Action Data and Safety Study Published**

**MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA:** Specialty pharmaceutical company Hatchtech Pty Ltd has published data describing the mechanism of action of the active ingredient (Ha44) in its lead product DeOvo™, a single application topical treatment for head lice.

The research data, published in the journal PLOS ONE (Vol 7, issue 11 e49961) describes the ability of Ha44 to fatally disrupt all stages of the life cycle of the model organism *Drosophila melanogaster*, from eggs to adult flies. Ha44, a small heterocyclic organic molecule, is able to chelate heavy metal ions including zinc, iron and copper and thereby disrupt metal dependent targets within the insect that require these ions for normal function.

"This research conducted under an ARC Linkage Grant in conjunction with The University of Melbourne is consistent with the spectrum of activity of Ha44 that we have observed against head lice in the laboratory and in clinical studies. It demonstrates all stages from eggs to adults are susceptible to the compound with a single application," said Dr Vern Bowles, Hatchtech's Chief Scientific Officer. "Furthermore the results indicate that Ha44 is acting on several targets within the insect which suggests that target site resistance is unlikely to evolve."

The company also announced that it had successfully completed a Thorough QT (TQT) study, a clinical safety assessment required by US and European regulators for nearly all new molecular entities. Dr Lewis Schulz, Hatchtech's chief operating officer said, "We are very pleased with the results of the TQT study which provide further data supporting the safety profile of DeOvo."

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### **About Hatchtech**

Hatchtech Pty Ltd is a venture-backed specialty pharmaceutical product company that is developing technology for the control of invertebrate pests. The Company's investors include, GBS Venture Partners, Queensland Biotechnology Fund, Uniseed, University of Melbourne Endowment Trust, AustralianSuper, and OneVentures Innovation Fund. The OneVentures Innovation Fund is supported by the Australian Government through the IIF program.

The company's lead product is DeOvo™, a class-leading head lice control agent that aims to overcome the frustrating, costly and inconvenient cycles of re-treatment experienced currently by children and their parents.

### **Hatchtech Pty Ltd**

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## **About DeOvo™**

Despite its prevalence and high cost to the community, there have been few major advances in controlling head lice infestation in recent years. Most pediculicide products have little ovicidal activity and require two treatments (approximately 7 days apart), with the second application designed to treat those lice which have hatched from eggs that survived the first treatment. Non-compliance with this regimen and the difficulty in choosing the optimal time for the second application, are major difficulties in using these products. Hatchtech's DeOvo™, a topical formulation of an inhibitor of metalloproteases, has shown both ovicidal and lousicidal activity and offers the potential for a more effective treatment following a single application.

## **About Pediculosis**

It is estimated that 6-12 million people in the United States, mainly children aged 3-12, are infested each year with head lice (*Pediculus humanus capitis*). The direct cost of treatment is estimated at several hundreds of millions of dollars. Added to this direct economic burden are the indirect costs including missed days from school, lost work productivity by parents who stay home to treat their children and costs borne by the school itself in trying to control or prevent this problem. The total costs have been estimated to be 1 billion USD in the US alone.

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