

## Rhythm Biosciences completes cloning step of key reagent development ahead of schedule



- Monoclonal antibody-producing cell lines now isolated
- RHY moving to next stage of characterisation & expansion

**21 June 2018, Melbourne:** Medical diagnostics pioneer Rhythm Biosciences Limited (ASX: RHY) is pleased to announce that the next phase of key reagent development has been completed successfully and ahead of schedule.

Producing the reagents was a major technical achievement because it involved isolating four cell lines, each producing monoclonal antibodies which target the third biomarker on the lead diagnostic panel.

The success of this cloning is another critical step towards ensuring the company has a reliable, long-term source of key reagents for its simple and effective ColoSTAT™ blood test for colorectal cancer.

RHY now enters a phase that entails detailed characterisation of the monoclonal antibodies produced by the cell lines. The Company expects this work to be completed by mid-August 2018.

Following this, RHY will characterise the growth and antibody production properties of the selected cell lines. This will lead to the commencement of expansion and biobanking of master (and working) cell banks of these critical cell lines, ensuring the company has a long-term, well characterised sustainable source of these important reagents.

The Company remains on track to have delivery of the key reagents and cell lines completed by late November 2018.

“The CSIRO and the Rhythm teams have worked hard and done an excellent job of screening and cloning these antibody-producing cell lines putting Rhythm in a strong position to develop quality assay kits for this the third biomarker of its lead ColoSTAT™ biomarker panel,” said Rhythm CEO, Trevor Lockett

Dr Lockett said the team is focussed on seeing the fruits of their labour translated into robust laboratory tests that can be clinically evaluated in Study 6, currently on track to start in late calendar 2018.

“We are confident of the science behind this test and we are moving as fast as we can to progress it through the clinical testing phase,” said Dr Lockett.

This announcement follows earlier announcements on 12 June and 15 June that leading biotechnology investor Merchant Group’s Merchant Opportunities Fund had become a substantial shareholder in Rhythm, initially with a stake of 5.02 per cent of the company and later 7.01 per cent.

“Colorectal cancer is the third highest cause of cancer death world-wide yet it is quite treatable if diagnosed in the early stages so we really want to enable doctors to order a

simple blood test as soon as we practically can," Dr Lockett said. "In Europe, Australia and the US combined there are 250 million people between ages 50 and 75 years who should be screening for colorectal cancer but 130 million of these don't.

Dr Lockett said once clinically proven and approved, Rhythm's goal will be to make ColoSTAT™ an important tool in the diagnosis and treatment of colorectal cancer, augmenting existing tools such as the faecal immunochemical test (FIT) and colonoscopy. It's all about getting more people screening and saving lives.

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### **About Rhythm Biosciences**

ASX-listed Rhythm Biosciences is developing and commercialising a diagnosis tool for the early detection of colorectal cancer, the third biggest cause of cancer-related deaths globally.

Rhythm's lead product, ColoSTAT™, is intended to be a simple, affordable, minimally invasive and effective blood test. It is expected to be comparable to, if not better than, the current standard of care of faecal immunochemical tests (FITs) or colonoscopies.

ColoSTAT is especially relevant for at-risk patients, or those unwilling or unable to be assessed using the standard screening programs. In development phase, ColoSTAT has the potential to act as a first-step screening test, or a prioritisation (triage) tool for colonoscopy follow-up in the event of positive FIT test results.

ColoSTAT is designed to be used easily by laboratories without the need for additional operator training or additional infrastructure.

ColoSTAT has the potential to play an important role in reducing the morbidity and mortality rates and healthcare costs associated with colorectal cancer.