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30<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Chairman's Address**

Good afternoon ladies and gentleman,

Thank you for joining this 2020 Annual General Meeting of shareholders of BioDiem Ltd which is being held by webinar.

I am your chairman and since we have a quorum present, I officially declare the meeting open.

Please be patient with us if we have any technical difficulties with these new virtual arrangements. We will certainly do our best to conduct a smooth meeting.

We are fortunate that the webinar format has allowed my fellow director Prof Larisa Rudenko to join us from St Petersburg, Russia and we have our CEO and director, Julie Phillips joining from Sydney, and I am in Melbourne. Prof Arthur Li sends his apologies.

In my reference to Professor Rudenko I would like to add a special welcome to her celebrating two important events. Firstly, Larisa has just recovered from a Covid-19 event – no mean challenge for which we are all so pleased. And, secondly, to share with shareholders as a matter of record her recognition in the Lancet Journal in June of its acknowledgement of “her dedication to science, public health and her team”. Our CEO will add to these comments in her presentation to shareholders.

Before I present to you the highlights of our year, let me take you through a little of our history. This is the perfect time to recognise the value of the work and the timescales involved in developing life-saving vaccines. All BioDiem shareholders have contributed to this.

A decade ago BioDiem's flu vaccine technology, the LAIV, was licensed to the World Health Organisation for developing countries. The Indian company, Serum Institute of India, was given a licence under that arrangement. The 2009/2010 swine flu pandemic was the international concern at that time. Serum Institute of India rapidly developed a LAIV nasal spray flu vaccine: it was called Nasovac, and was launched in July 2010, just 13 months after the pandemic was declared.

Since then, the term “pandemic preparedness” has become familiar to everyone. And while more than 272,000 have died so far this year in the US from the COVID-19 pandemic, every year there are many deaths from seasonal influenza. In the 18/19 season, the CDC estimates 34,200 and in the year before that, 38,000. The WHO program which BioDiem joined a decade ago, was the WHO Global Pandemic Action Plan for Influenza Vaccines.

In India, vaccination to prevent flu is not as high a priority for government as it is for other infectious diseases and so sales volumes since the swine flu pandemic have been low, and for us, disappointing since we receive royalties on sales of the vaccine. This year however there has been a resurgence of interest internationally in the value of the prevention of flu and this might be reflected in sales growth in the coming years from India.

The highlight of this year for us has been the marketing approval and launch in China of Defluvac. This intranasal LAIV vaccine was developed by Changchun BCHT Biotechnology Company (BCHT) under the WHO's Global Action Plan. We signed the licence to BCHT in 2012.

What does this mean for BioDiem? Each year we receive a milestone payment from BCHT and following the first sale of their vaccine, an uplift in this annual payment is triggered until overtaken by royalties. Confidentiality provisions prevent me from being more specific about payment sizes, however we are delighted by BCHT's progress in China in what has been an extraordinarily difficult year.

BioDiem owns 63.3% of Opal Biosciences, our subsidiary. During the year Opal raised \$455,500 from the conversion of options which were issued as part of its 2018 placement of shares. Opal also benefited from a CSIRO Kickstart grant and a cash rebate through the federal government's R&D tax incentive program which was received in July 2020. Together the grant and tax rebate totaled \$132,000. The funds were used to continue the development of BDM-I as a treatment for serious infections and to explore variations of BDM-I which could overcome some of the challenges we have had with the parent molecule. Our CEO will cover in some detail the key studies undertaken in the Opal program. The studies were not without challenges and the synthesis of their results and the development options for the BDM-I molecule itself are currently under review by the board as well as broader opportunities for Opal.

Our last capital raising in BioDiem was 4 years ago. We have successfully managed our cash position since that time and remain hopeful that the income we receive from royalties will grow and position us to attract potential acquirers. Our shareholders have been very patient over the past decade or more, and have continued to support the company. I look forward to giving you updates about our position through the coming year.

I will now hand over to Julie for the CEO presentation.