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MEDIA RELEASE

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SUPER BEES OUTWIT SUPERBUGS - SCIENTISTS ANNOUNCE BREAKTHROUGH

In a world first, a product developed by Australian company Medihoney® has demonstrated outstanding results against highly infectious 'superbugs' including multi-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) recently implicated in the death of an Australian man.

The results of extensive testing on Medihoney's antimicrobial wound dressing, by research scientists from the Royal Brisbane Hospital (RBH), will be presented to the world for the first time at the Australian Infection Control Conference in Hobart tomorrow (**Friday 11 June**).

Following release of these results, and others from trials being conducted globally, the Medihoney product is expected to have enormous impact on the way major infections are treated in hospitals worldwide.

The significance of the announcement will impact positively on wound patients worldwide as soon as widespread treatment with the wound gel commences. The economic implications of finding such an inexpensive solution to the global problem of drug-resistant infections, currently managed by the use of often high-cost antibiotics, are still to be realised.

Medihoney Chief Executive Officer Anthony Moloney said the researchers conducted tests of Medihoney Wound Gel's efficacy against 107 strains of 'super bugs', including MRSA, collected over a 14-year period.

Mr Moloney said while indications from clinical studies in Brisbane, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Germany were promising, the RBH study was important in conclusively determining the high effectiveness of the Medihoney product.

"Medihoney is fast proving its potential to provide a natural solution for the troubling, and increasing, problem of antibiotic-resistant infection. Further, laboratory tests have proven that, as well as fighting the bugs that caused infection, there is no sign of the "superbugs" developing resistance to the honey-based treatment.

" Medihoney Wound Gel is already on supermarket shelves and in pharmacies in Australia but, as a result of the studies, the potential impact of clinical use could be extraordinary," he said.

Mr Moloney said clinical trials continued to prove the product's worth in promoting the healing of extremely debilitating infections in skin ulcers, surgical wounds, burns and some cancerous tumours.

"Medihoney is an exceptionally effective antibacterial, wound-healing product available in cream, gel and pure honey forms. It is derived from specialised medical honey and is highly effective in the management of cuts, burns, scratches, skin infections and surgical wounds.

"While there may be some who are sceptical that something as simple as a correctly formulated natural honey can combat highly resistant infections, the evidence stands for itself. Scientists all over the world are proving that Medihoney products work where other more expensive and complicated treatments are failing," he said.

Supervising scientist Narelle George at Royal Brisbane Hospital said today her research team had shown that Medihoney was effective against all the common antibiotic resistant bacteria tested in the laboratory.

"It was effective whether or not the organism was resistant to antibiotics and the concentration of Medihoney we needed was much lower than expected," she said.

Ms George said that although the active components of medical honey were still being investigated, Medihoney was known to have a tri-action effect on wounds by cleaning, protecting against infection and creating a moist environment that promoted healing.

International research and clinical trials on Medihoney are currently underway in the kidney dialysis unit at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane, the palliative care unit for cancer patients with malodorous tumours at Prince Charles Hospital in Brisbane, at the University of Aintree Hospital in the United Kingdom where Medihoney is being used to treat leg ulcers and at the Red Cross Hospital in South Africa for treatment of burns in children.

Positive results from clinical trials of Medihoney's antimicrobial wound dressings in Bonn, Germany, and from a four-centre study involving 40 patients whose leg ulcers had not responded to 12 weeks of compression therapy, will be publicly reported within a few weeks. The four-centre trial is expected to show that overall ulcer pain and size decreased significantly and odorous wounds were deodorised promptly with use of the Medihoney product.

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