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Opal Joins Global Antimicrobial Challenge

Melbourne, 10 December 2018: Opal BioSciences Limited (“Opal”, or the “Company”) is an Australian biotechnology company committed to tackling a serious global health threat: antibiotic-resistant infections.

Opal is pleased to announce that it has joined the U.S. Government’s Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Challenge by committing to continue to develop urgently needed new anti-infective treatments for life-threatening and hard-to-treat infections. The AMR Challenge is a yearlong effort to accelerate the fight against antimicrobial resistance across the globe. The AMR Challenge is a way for governments, private industries, and non-governmental organizations worldwide to make formal commitments that further the progress against antimicrobial resistance. (<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/intl-activities/amr-challenge.html>.)

Opal’s drug candidate, BDM-I, is a small molecule that has shown in laboratory experiments that it can kill many serious disease-causing microbes (pathogens) including six identified by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in their Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2013 (AR Threats Report). Opal’s current focus is towards antibiotic-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoea*, which is responsible for causing the sexually transmitted infection, gonorrhoea. BDM-I has shown *in vitro* activity against all of the 2016 World Health Organization Reference strain panel, including those highly resistant to currently recommended antibiotics.

Opal’s Managing Director, Julie Phillips, commented “This important initiative by the US Government helps to co-ordinate attention towards one of the world’s most serious and growing problems. Our generation takes antibiotics for granted; relying on their protection for major surgeries like joint replacements and organ transplants, as well as aggressive cancer treatments. We are pleased to do our part to develop new treatments for infections, as antibiotic resistance rises around the world.”

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About Opal Biosciences Ltd (www.opalbiosciences.com)

Opal Biosciences is an Australian biotechnology company and an innovative player in infectious disease treatment. The unmet need for new anti-infectives is due to increasing resistance to existing antibiotics, more widespread and common difficult-to-treat infections, and the paucity of upcoming new treatments. This need has spurred the EU and US to introduce significant financial incentives to encourage development of new anti-infectives. Opal’s preclinical stage antimicrobial compound, BDM-I, has shown that it is effective in the laboratory against many “superbugs”. Our most recent results show effectiveness against antibiotic-resistant *N. gonorrhoea*, which has been rated an “Urgent Threat” by the US CDC. Gonorrhoea is highly infectious. The World Health Organisation* estimates there are more than 78m new cases of gonorrhoea each year with about 30% being resistant to at least one antibiotic. Cases have now been reported that are resistant to routine antibiotic treatments.

* <http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/07-07-2017-antibiotic-resistant-gonorrhoea-on-the-rise-new-drugs-needed>