# Submission cover sheet

## Inquiry into endometriosis and other pelvic pain conditions

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# INFORMATION MEMORANDUM ON ENDOMETRIOSIS RESEARCH - UPDATE DECEMBER 2025

The following is a summary of the endometriosis research that I've been involved with - research which may have the potential for providing not only an early diagnostic test but also a potential therapeutic treatment, using the same patented synthetic lipid peptide.

It is well-recognised that endometriosis is a debilitating, painful (many would say punishing) condition affecting one in 7 women worldwide. Nearly a million Australian girls and women live with endometriosis and the delay in making the diagnosis averages 6-7 years. It's considered to be one of the most important conditions affecting women's health.

An Australian government report has revealed that endometriosis costs Australian society $9.7 billion each year, with two thirds of these costs attributed to lost productivity and the remaining $2.5 billion needed for healthcare costs.

There is, therefore, a major unmet need to address the underlying cause of this condition as current treatment is, at best, just supportive and symptomatic.

By way of background, I began my Surgical Practice in Newcastle in 1982. Over the years I have operated on a number of women who've had endometriosis complications. Since 2001, I have been associated with the peptide research of an academic colleague, Prof Michael Agrez.

A virtual company was formed, InterK Peptide Therapeutics, to ensure ongoing funding. There are now almost 100 shareholders.

Now, peptides are nothing new - after all, most of the hormones circulating in our bloodstreams are simply peptides which have varying functions (eg: insulin).

The really important development, is that, over the past 10-12 years, as a result of this research, a specific peptide has been designed that improves immune function and suppresses unwanted inflammation.

Now, we know that the immune system, in women and girls with endometriosis, doesn't work properly to get rid of the abnormal cells inside their abdomens which are causing so much pain.

The research shows that, in the laboratory, this unique peptide works in such a way that one would reasonably predict that it would help the immune system, in affected women and girls, to get rid of the abnormal endometriosis cells inside their abdomens which are causing so much distress and pain.

Not only that, but one would expect it to suppress the inflammation caused by the endometriosis - inflammation which, when acute, causes the severe pain and when chronic may cause infertility.

However, although the peptide is a potential cure, the real game changer is the fact that it could be used to provide early diagnosis by means of a simple blood test. In fact, a highly reputable laboratory we have dealt with over the years has advised that the study to prove this could be carried out, within the time frame of a year or two.

Studies to confirm it's value as a potential cure would take a bit longer and require more in terms of funding.

The research, over the years, has been supported by private individuals (there are no institutional investors). In addition, various medical Institutes and Foundations have shown support. In fact, the Hunter Medical Research Institute, HMRI, is now engaging with InterK regarding protocols for two proposed studies which are about to be reviewed by the HMRI Head of Research Design.

As a prospective partner, HMRI have indicated that it would also be delighted to broker introductions to researchers with relevant deep biomedical and translation experience, arrange a showcase event to ignite interest in the technology across its research ecosystem and involve the University Innovation Dept as well as support ongoing clinical validation work subject to funding.

As the peptide has now been shown to have definite benefits, it would be important to see it go from this pre-clinical to the clinical stage.

Prof Agrez has published a series of articles in respected, peer reviewed medical journals and is also regularly invited to present research at international and national scientific meetings including the Royal Australasian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. He is currently about to submit a paper on this peptide and its relevance to endometriosis to the Aust & NZ Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

A number of patents are in place to cover the composition of the peptide.

So, in summary, we are associated with very promising research which appears to have potential for significantly improving women's health through the design of a peptide relevant to improving the treatment of endometriosis - both through early diagnosis and potential cure.

The scientific progress to date has been strong. Our goal is to continue to ensure funding for ongoing development of the technology and maintenance of the patent portfolio.

Paul Anseline.
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