

MICRONEEDLE PATENT GRANTED

Medical technologies group Norwood Abbey Ltd [ASX:NAL] advises that the Australian Commissioner of Patents has granted an additional patent to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology ('MIT'), flowing from Norwood Abbey's research at MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts. NAL has an exclusive world-wide license over this patent and all intellectual property flowing from its sponsored research at MIT.

The patent is Australian Patent number 2002353855 and titled "Impedance Sensor".

Overall, the patent which has a substantial number of individual patent claims covers the concept of using impedance to measure the depth of penetration of a needle into the target area of a biological body.

Traditionally, drug delivery through the skin has been relatively imprecise in both location and dosage of the pharmaceutical. Some of the problems have included movement of the patient during administration and difficulties in delivering a pharmaceutical to the appropriate part (depth) of the skin.

The patent includes claims related to a transdermal transport device that includes a reservoir for holding a substance ('drug'), a needle with a bore through which the drug is injected, and an impedance sensor. The impedance sensor measures the depth of penetration of the needle into the target area ('body'). The technology and patent covers the use of a control unit that stops the penetration of the needle into the body when the desired depth of penetration has been achieved.

The ability to control the delivery of a drug to a targeted depth is a significant development. The ability to deliver a drug to a designated depth can both increase the efficacy of a drug, as well as possibly enable a decrease in the amount of drug needed to achieve the required therapeutic or prophylactic outcome.

While the technology was primarily developed as part of the Microneedle Project, the patent may have wider application.

Norwood Abbey has an exclusive international license over the technology.

To find out more about the Norwood group, visit www.norwoodabbey.com

For further information please contact:

Lula Lioffi
Corporate Communications Manager
Norwood Abbey Ltd
+61-3-9770-0063