

For Immediate Release

## **LifeTec Group Limited Announcement of Research Breakthrough**

- **Anti-liver fibrosis fusion protein Fibrocorin effectively suppress liver fibrosis growth by 40%**
- **Findings presented in International Forum on Liver Fibrosis**

(Hong Kong, 25 Nov 2004) - **LifeTec Group Limited** (“LifeTec” or “the Group”) (HKEX code: 1180) announced the research breakthrough in anti-fibrosis fusion protein Fibrocorin in the International Forum on Liver Fibrosis. This recombinant protein is the result of the joint research effort amongst LifeTec, the University of Hong Kong and the City University of Hong Kong. LifeTec has filed patent application in the United States for Fibrocorin.

China has more than 120 million hepatitis B carriers who are likely to suffer chronic hepatitis. Patients suffering from chronic hepatitis have much higher chances to develop liver fibrosis which will further evolve into liver cirrhosis and liver cancer. There is currently limited number of effective treatment for liver fibrosis.

In vitro activities indicated that Fibrocorin can inhibit the growth of fibroblast cells by 40%. Transforming growth factor beta (“TGF-beta”) is widely recognized as the trigger for the growth of fibroblast cells in liver. By binding with the TGF-beta, Fibrocorin can inhibit the signal pathway for fibrogenesis and in turn prevent liver fibrosis, cirrhosis and liver cancer. This fusion protein’s half-life has also been extended by genetic engineering to give a more sustained therapeutic effect.

The research project has been led by the world’s top bio-molecular scientists Professor Hsiang-Fu Kung and Professor Michael Yang. Professor Kung is the Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Chair Professor of the Institute of Molecular Biology of the University of Hong Kong. He is one of the original scientists for the development of interferon alpha as a therapeutic agent. Professor Yang is the Professor of the Biology and Chemistry Department and the Director of the Applied Research Centre for Genomics Technology of the City University of Hong Kong.

The research findings of Fibrocorin were first announced in the International Forum on Liver Fibrosis which was jointly organized by the Hong Kong University and the City University of Hong Kong. LifeTec is the sponsor of the Forum. World’s leading experts on liver fibrosis and hepatitis were invited to speak at the Forum which represented this year’s major medical event in the region.

Mr Jay Chun, Chairman of LifeTec, said, “We are so glad to announce the invention of Fibrocorin. This will bring the treatment of liver fibrosis to a new functional genomics era. Respective animal tests have been completed and clinical trials of Fibrocorin are expected to begin in 2005. We view Fibrocorin as a very promising drug candidate for prevention of liver fibrosis and cancer.”

- End -

**About the International Forum on Liver Fibrosis**

The International Forum on Liver Fibrosis (the "Forum"), held in Hong Kong on 25 Nov 2004, was organized by the Hong Kong University and the City University of Hong Kong. LifeTec is the sponsor of the Forum. The Forum was set up to discuss the latest breakthrough in the treatment for liver diseases, in particular hepatitis and fibrosis. It also studied the development of new drug candidates for the treatment of liver fibrosis. The Forum was chaired by Professor Georges M. Halpern, the Distinguished Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Four lecture topics were delivered by honorary speakers include Professor Pierre Opolon, the leading liver disease expert from France; Professor Axel M. Gressner, the top liver disease expert from Germany; Professor Si Chong Wen, the prominent liver disease expert from China and the Honorary Chairman of the Infectious and Parasitic Disease Committee of the Chinese Medical Association; Professor Michael Yang, the Director of the Applied Research Centre of Genomics Technology and the Professor of the Biology and Chemistry Department at the City University of Hong Kong. The panel discussion "Development trend for treatment of liver fibrosis" was chaired by Professor Hsiang-Fu Kung, the Chair Professor of Institute of Molecular Biology at the University of Hong Kong, the Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the inventor of the world's first Roferon-A and Dr. Marie C.M. Lin, the Investigator of Institute of Molecular Biology at the University of Hong Kong. Luncheon speech was given by Professor Lai Ching Lung, the Chair Professor of Medicine and Hepatology, Department of Medicine, the University of Hong Kong. Over 100 medical practitioners and scientists in Hong Kong, China and overseas have been invited to the Forum. It served as an important platform for exchanging views on the therapeutic solutions for liver fibrosis.

Details of the Forum and the presentation materials are available from LifeTec's website at [www.hk1180.com](http://www.hk1180.com)

**About LifeTec Group Limited (SEHK: 1180)**

LifeTec Group Limited is a Hong Kong listed company (SEHK: 1180), which develops, sells and distributes biopharmaceutical products based on original technology. LifeTec owns the intellectual property, production know-how and worldwide exclusive distributorship of the new generation hepatitis drug Wei Jia, a Category I drug approved by China's State Food and Drug Administration.

With 120 million hepatitis B carriers, China is the world's largest market for hepatitis drugs. With LifeTec's outstanding sales and marketing capability, the number of hospitals adopting Wei Jia for hepatitis treatment soared to about 800 as at the end of June 2004. LifeTec is also licensed to sell and distribute third parties' biopharmaceutical products through its nationwide distribution network. At present, LifeTec has a national coverage of 22 sales offices in China and access to overseas market.

LifeTec is working on recombinant human augments for liver regeneration ("rhALR"), a revolutionary gene therapy for various kinds of liver diseases, and Fibrocorin, an anti-fibrosis and anti-cancer fusion protein. The two new products signify the Group's strategic move to develop genetic drugs.

Issued by PR ASIA Consultants Limited on behalf of LifeTec Group Limited.

For enquiries, please contact:

LifeTec Group Limited

Mr. Philip Poon

Tel: (852) 2620 5303

Fax: (852) 2620 6000

E-mail: [philippon@hk1180.com](mailto:philippon@hk1180.com)

Website: [www.hk1180.com](http://www.hk1180.com)

PR ASIA Consultants Limited

Mr. Patrick Yu / Mr. Danny Cheng

Tel: (852) 2586 1638 / 2802 2738

Fax: (852) 2583 9138

E-mail: [patrick.yu@prasia.net](mailto:patrick.yu@prasia.net) / [danny.cheng@prasia.net](mailto:danny.cheng@prasia.net)