

## Bod secures collaboration agreement with Drug Science to explore medicinal cannabis efficacy on long-COVID

- **Collaboration agreement secured to progress a study on the efficacy of MediCabilis® in managing symptoms associated with the long-term impact of COVID-19 ("long-COVID")**
- **Drug Science is the UK's leading independent scientific body on drugs and a long-term research partner of Bod**
- **Long-COVID refers to the lasting effects of COVID-19 – symptoms include chronic pain, anxiety, sleep disturbances and fatigue**
- **Agreement has the potential to unlock another large market opportunity – it is estimated that one in 10 people that test positive for COVID-19 will have symptoms for 12 weeks after diagnosis<sup>i</sup>**
- **MediCabilis® is currently prescribed for patients with chronic pain, anxiety and sleep disorders**
- **Clinical study protocol to be finalised for UK-based trial with commencement expected in coming months**

**Sydney, Australia – 18 March 2021:** Medicinal cannabis, CBD and hemp healthcare products company, Bod Australia Limited ("Bod", or "the Company") (ASX: BDA) is pleased to advise that it has entered into a collaboration agreement with the UK's leading independent scientific body on drugs, Drug Science UK ("Drug Science") ([www.drugscience.org.uk](http://www.drugscience.org.uk)), to assess the efficacy of Bod's medicinal cannabis, MediCabilis®, in managing symptoms associated with the long term impact of SARS-CoV-2 ("COVID-19"), commonly referred to as long-COVID.

Drug Science was founded in 2010 by Professor David Nutt and is the only completely independent, science-led drugs charity in the UK. The group is focused on bringing together leading experts from a wide range of specialisms to provide an evidence base, which is free from political and commercial influence, to create the foundation for sensible and effective drug laws.

Bod has a longstanding relationship with Drug Science and was a founding launch partner of Project Twenty21. Project Twenty21 is a medicinal cannabis registry that aims to create the UK's largest body of evidence for the effectiveness and tolerability of medicinal cannabis. Additional background on the Company's relationship with Drug Science can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.drugscience.org.uk/statement-regarding-project-twenty21-and-its-official-industry-partners/>

Long-COVID refers to when people experience symptoms of COVID-19 and do not fully recover for several weeks or months after the start of their symptoms. The more common symptoms of the condition include sleep disturbances, chronic pain, anxiety and fatigue, which may be amenable to treatment with cannabis based medicinal products.

Currently, there is no treatment for symptoms associated with long-COVID and an urgent need to identify and study potential ways to manage the emerging clinical condition. Bod's MediCabilis® product is currently used to treat a range of conditions including pain and anxiety and the Company is confident that the product may assist with people suffering from long-COVID.

As part of the agreement, Bod and Drug Science will progress a UK-based clinical study to explore the effectiveness of prescribing MediCabilis® to long-COVID sufferers. Protocol for the study is currently being finalised. The Company expects it to commence in the coming months, with the initiative to build on the growing body of evidence for the use of MediCabilis® and further strengthen Bod's relationship with Drug Science.

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Committed to supporting the healthcare professional on Cannabinoid applications with education, research and knowledge.

### CAPITAL STRUCTURE

ASX code BDA  
Shares on issue 105.9m  
Market Capitalisation ~\$57.7m

### BOARD & MANAGEMENT

Mr Mark Masterson  
Non-Executive Chairman

Ms Jo Patterson  
Chief Executive Officer

Mr Akash Bedi  
Non-Executive Director

Mr George Livery  
Non-Executive Director

Mr Patrice Malard  
Non-Executive Director

Mr Simon O'Loughlin  
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Mr Stephen Kelly  
Company Secretary

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The collaboration agreement will unlock another large potential market for Bod. It is estimated in the UK that one in 10 people who tested positive for the disease still suffered from symptoms 12 weeks later and one in five having long-COVID symptoms for five weeks or more. Recently, NHS England has invested £10m in specialist long-COVID clinics.

**CEO Jo Patterson said:** *"While much progress has been made in the treatment of COVID-19, the effects of the disease are expected to continue into the foreseeable future and symptoms are likely to linger for many patients. This collaboration with Drug Science will not only strengthen the body of evidence for the use of MediCabilis®, but also potentially address the growing unmet health concerns around long-COVID."*

*"MediCabilis® is currently being prescribed for a number of chronic conditions and we are confident that this initiative will provide patients with a pathway to manage the effects of long-COVID and improve their quality of life."*

*"We look forward to updating shareholders on the commencement of the trial and first patient recruitments in the coming months."*

**Drug Science Founder, Professor David Nutt added:** *"We are excited to have entered into this collaboration agreement with Bod Australia to explore the efficacy of medicinal cannabis on long-COVID symptoms. Bod has a scientific approach, that aligns well with Drug Science. We look forward to working with the Company to further explore the benefits of cannabinoid based products on chronic conditions including pain, anxiety and fatigue."*

#### **Responsibilities of each party:**

As part of the collaboration agreement, Bod will sponsor the proposed clinical study and provide its MediCabilis® product to participants. The Company does not expect the cost of the initiative to be material. Both parties will collaborate on trial design, and Drug Science will provide its extensive scientific expertise, independent doctors and scientists and conduct the study according to Good Clinical Practice standards through an approved cannabis prescriber in the UK. Drug Science will also be responsible for the collection and analysis of all data.

**- ENDS -**

## **ABOUT BOD AUSTRALIA**

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**This announcement was authorised for release by the Board of Directors of Bod Australia Limited.**

#### **For more information please contact:**

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-55331166>