## **ASX Announcement**

21 October 2022



## Rhythm Receives \$2.7m R&D Tax Incentive

Transformative, predictive cancer diagnostics technology company, Rhythm Biosciences Ltd (ASX: RHY) (Rhythm or the Company) is pleased to advise that it has received a Research and Development (R&D) tax refund totaling \$2.7 million, as part of the Australian government's R&D tax incentive.

This incentive refund recognises the research and development activities undertaken by Rhythm during the financial year ended 30 June 2022. The receipt of the \$2.7 million further supports our global commercialisation activities and other operational milestones.

This receipt of \$2.7 million reflects the scaled-up research and development, clinical trial and manufacturing activities for ColoSTAT®.

ColoSTAT®, RHY's lead product, is aimed to be a globally marketed, low-cost, simple blood test for the early detection of colorectal cancer for mass-market screening.

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Authorised for release by the Board.

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## **About Rhythm Biosciences**

Rhythm Biosciences is focused on becoming a globally significant, transformative, predictive diagnostics company, specialising in cancer detection technology. The Company is currently developing ColoSTAT® - a simple, low-cost, blood test for global mass market detection of colorectal cancer.

Worldwide, colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in men and the second most common in women, accounting for an estimated 1.9 million new cases and 935,000 deaths annually.

In an effort to reduce the global burden, many countries have implemented screening programs aimed at early detection. These programs are predominantly administered with a faecal immunochemical test (FIT) for the assessment of colorectal cancer risk, with a positive result referred for a colonoscopy. FIT only analyses the presence of blood in faeces, which can occur for several reasons other than cancer, therefore it is not designed as an accurate test for cancer. Many people simply don't take the test for fear of an unnecessary colonoscopy procedure, unpleasantness, difficulty, or for religious/cultural reasons. There is currently no appropriate blood test alternative.

Rhythm aims to transform the global mass-market for colorectal cancer detection with ColoSTAT® its simple, low-cost blood test that is fit for purpose, meaning that it is designed to actually detect colorectal cancer. Since listing on the ASX in 2017, the Company has run a successful multi-year research and development program that has delivered technical validation of the core biomarker technology, being reproducible and stable. The ColoSTAT® test-kit was manufactured in 2021 and delivered performance testing that outperforms the current market standard faecal immunochemical test utilising Rhythm's proprietary algorithm. The Company is currently finalising its clinical trial for ColoSTAT®, and is progressing regulatory, manufacturing and scale up activities ahead of market entry in 2022.

ColoSTAT® is designed to be used easily by laboratories without the need for additional operator training or additional infrastructure. ColoSTAT® has the potential to play a key role in reducing the morbidity and mortality rates and healthcare costs associated with colorectal cancer via increasing current screening rates.

Rhythm's initial targeted global addressable population is over 800 million people which are over 50 years of age. Almost 70%, or 550 million people, are not currently screened for colorectal cancer due to the limitations of the current faecal based testing regime. This "at risk" population is also expanding with the disease growing rapidly in much younger age groups. Early detection and intervention can lead to cure in over 90 per cent of new cases, therefore the need for effective screening and early intervention has the potential to save a significant number of lives. Rhythm estimates today's colorectal cancer screening market alone to be worth in excess of \$38 billion.