

19 May 2026

ASX Announcement

## US biodefence engagement expanded ahead of commencement of Galidesivir Animal Rule studies

- Island appoints highly experienced US biodefence executive Mark Herzog as Senior Global Health Security Advisor
- Mr Herzog brings over 25 years' experience across biodefence, government contracting and medical countermeasure initiatives
- Mr Herzog previously held senior roles at a US pharmaceutical company supporting multiple US DoD biodefence initiatives and has a proven track record securing US\$100m+ government contracts
- Appointment strengthens strategic engagement capabilities across key US agencies, including DoD, HHS, BARDA and allied procurement ecosystems
- Representation secured on strategically important Medical Countermeasures Coalition (MC2) working groups focused on countermeasure R&D, procurement and stockpiling policy
- Initiatives expand Island's engagement across the US biodefence ecosystem ahead of planned FDA Animal Rule studies for Galidesivir
- MC2 engagement aligns closely with USAMRIID collaboration and supports Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) and medical countermeasure procurement
- Island remains on track to commence planned dose optimisation studies next quarter supporting development of Galidesivir for Marburg Virus Disease under the FDA Animal Rule pathway

**MELBOURNE Australia, 19 May 2026:** Australian antiviral drug development company, Island Pharmaceuticals Ltd (**ASX: ILA; Island or the Company**) is pleased to provide the following update on US biodefence ecosystem engagement initiatives, implemented prior to the commencement of its planned dose escalation study next quarter to support the development of Galidesivir for the treatment of Marburg Virus Disease (MVD) under the US Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Animal rule.

Most recently, Island has expanded its engagement across the US biodefence landscape with the appointment of Mr Mark Herzog as Senior Global Health Security Advisor. In parallel, the Company is also advancing a number of initiatives as part of its membership of the Medical Countermeasures Coalition (MC2), an international alliance focused on advancing vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics targeting emerging infectious diseases and biological threats.

### **Appointment of Mark Herzog to expand US biodefence sector engagement:**

Mr Herzog has over 25 years executive leadership experience across the biopharmaceutical, biodefence and clinical laboratory sectors, with particular expertise in global health security policy, medical countermeasure development, government affairs, defence acquisition and strategic stakeholder engagement.



Most recently, he served 12 years in senior roles with a US pharmaceutical company focused on advanced drug delivery and medical countermeasure technologies, where he supported multiple US Department of Defence (DoD) and biodefence initiatives.

Throughout his career, he has demonstrated a strong track record of developing and obtaining US\$100m+ in US and international government contracts, leading FDA-approved product PR launches and building cross-sector coalitions across defence, public health and industry. Concurrently, he has positioned himself as a trusted advisor to senior government and industry stakeholders with deep expertise in DoD, Department of Human Health Services (HHS), the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and allied procurement ecosystems.

Mr Herzog also serves on the executive committee of the Medical CBRN Defense Consortium (MCD), a leading US biodefence consortium supporting the development and procurement of medical countermeasures targeting chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats.

As part of his engagement, Mr Herzog will assist Island in expanding its presence within the US biodefence and global health security ecosystem, with a focus on strategic government engagement, medical countermeasure policy, procurement pathways and pandemic preparedness initiatives. His appointment is expected to support Island's ongoing advancement of Galidesivir under the FDA Animal Rule pathway for Marburg Virus Disease, while also strengthening the Company's engagement with key US government agencies, biodefence stakeholders, strategic partners and procurement networks relevant to future medical countermeasure opportunities, including potential Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) inclusion.

### **Increased engagement with Medical Countermeasures Coalition (MC2):**

Island is also pleased to advise that it has been appointed to two strategically important MC2 working groups focused on Research & Development and Procurement & Stockpiling, further strengthening the Company's engagement across the US biodefence and medical countermeasure ecosystem.

The R&D working group focuses on advancing next-generation medical countermeasures, through engagement with key US government agencies and funding bodies involved in biodefence and pandemic preparedness initiatives. Current priority areas include future biodefence funding frameworks, advancement of platform technologies and continued development of regulatory pathways such as the FDA Animal Rule, which is increasingly being recognised as an important mechanism to accelerate approval of medical countermeasures targeting high consequence pathogens where human efficacy studies are not feasible.

Importantly, Island's participation in this working group aligns closely with its ongoing collaboration with the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID) under the Company's Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA), supporting development of Galidesivir for Marburg Virus Disease.

The Procurement & Stockpiling working group focuses on future procurement and stockpiling frameworks for medical countermeasures, including SNS funding, inventory management and emergency preparedness initiatives. A key area of focus includes evolving "virtual stockpile" and surge-capacity procurement frameworks being considered by US health security agencies, alongside broader policy discussions regarding federal and state stockpiling responsibilities and funding mechanisms.

For personal use only



Island believes participation in these initiatives provides valuable engagement opportunities across the US biodefence ecosystem and further strengthens the Company's positioning as it advances Galidesivir under the FDA Animal Rule pathway toward potential future procurement and stockpiling opportunities.

**Ongoing clinical trial initiatives:**

Island remains in advanced negotiations with leading US-based BSL-4 biocontainment facilities regarding execution of its planned two-stage development pathway for Galidesivir under the FDA's animal rule.

The Company expects to finalise arrangements with trial partners shortly and commence its planned dose optimisation study next quarter. The study will run for 30 days and be followed by additional pharmacokinetic (PK) analyses and a pivotal confirmatory efficacy study required to support potential future regulatory approval under the Animal Rule pathway.

**Management commentary:**

**CEO and Managing Director, Dr David Foster said:** *"These initiatives represent important steps in Island's strategy to strengthen our engagement across the US biodefence and global health security ecosystem as we continue advancing Galidesivir under the FDA's Animal Rule pathway for Marburg Virus Disease.*

*The appointment of Mark Herzog materially enhances Island's strategic engagement capability through his extensive experience across biodefence policy, medical countermeasure development, government affairs and procurement initiatives. Importantly, his relationships and experience across agencies including the DoD, HHS and BARDA are highly complementary to Island's ongoing regulatory and clinical development activities.*

*In parallel, our appointment to the MC2 Research & Development and Procurement & Stockpiling working groups provides valuable engagement opportunities regarding evolving biodefence funding, procurement and stockpiling frameworks directly relevant to future medical countermeasure development and deployment.*

*Collectively, these initiatives continue to strengthen Island's strategic positioning as we move closer toward commencement of our planned Animal Rule studies next quarter and advance Galidesivir toward potential future regulatory, procurement and stockpiling opportunities."*

**- Ends -**

**Approved for release to the ASX by:**

David Foster (CEO and Managing Director)  
Island Pharmaceuticals Limited  
[info@islandpharmaceuticals.com](mailto:info@islandpharmaceuticals.com)

Investors and media, for further information, please contact:

Henry Jordan  
Six Degrees Investor Relations  
+61 (0) 431 271 538  
[henry.jordan@sdir.com.au](mailto:henry.jordan@sdir.com.au)

For personal use only



## **About Island Pharmaceuticals**

Island (ASX: ILA) is focused on areas of unmet need for drugs that can address urgent viral diseases, public health or biosecurity threats. The Company is executing a dual development strategy for its assets, ISLA-101 and Galidesivir.

ISLA-101 has a well-established safety profile, being repurposed for the prevention and treatment of dengue fever and other mosquito (or vector) borne diseases. Galidesivir is a clinical-stage antiviral molecule with a broad spectrum of activity in over 20 RNA viruses, including high-priority threats such as Ebola, Marburg, MERS, Zika and Yellow fever – viruses with significant unmet medical needs and that may contribute to national security threats.

*Island encourages all current investors to go paperless by registering their details with the Company's share registry, Automic Registry Services, whose contact info is housed on the Shareholder Services page of the Company's website.*

Visit [www.islandpharmaceuticals.com](http://www.islandpharmaceuticals.com) for more on Island.

For personal use only