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## ASX RELEASE

15 November 2021

### **MMJ Group invests AUD1m in Valo Therapeutics**

**MMJ Group Holdings Limited (ASX: MMJ) ("MMJ")** is an Australian-listed specialist investment company which concentrates on producing capital growth for shareholders over the medium to long term from investments in listed and unlisted equities and other financial assets.

#### **MMJ invests AUD1m in Valo Therapeutics**

MMJ has completed an investment of AUD1m in the unlisted Valo Therapeutics Oy ("**Valo Tx**") based in Finland. MMJ's investment was part of a total pre-IPO equity financing of approximately USD13m to fund the finalisation of preparations and initiation of a Phase 1 clinical study of Valo Tx's lead tumour antigen-coated oncolytic virus candidate, PeptiCRAd-1 in addition to the continued development of its anti-infectives platforms including PeptiBAC and PeptiVAX. The proceeds will also be used to support Valo Tx's preparations for an IPO in 2022. The investment was made from MMJ's existing cash reserves.

Valo Tx is an immunotherapy company that is developing antigen-coated oncolytic viruses and vaccine vectors as therapeutic vaccines against cancer and infectious diseases. Valo Tx's lead platform, PeptiCRAd (Peptide-coated Conditionally Replicating Adenovirus), was developed out of the laboratory of Professor Vincenzo Cerullo at the University of Helsinki. It turns oncolytic adenoviruses into targeted, tissue-specific cancer vaccines without the need to develop and manufacture multiple genetically modified viruses.

*"The investment in Valo demonstrates MMJ's expertise to secure a private negotiated investment in unlisted businesses which are not generally available to Australian retail and institutional investors, Mr. Wall (MMJ's Chairman) said. Valo represents the continued deployment of funds in accordance with its investment strategy following the broadening of MMJ's investment mandate in 2020."*

A copy of Valo Tx's announcement is attached to this release.

MMJ's investment in Valo comprises convertible notes with an acquisition cost of AUD1m.

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#### **Investor and Media Enquiries**

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**About MMJ**

MMJ Group Holdings Limited (ASX:MMJ) ("MMJ") (ABN 91 601 236 417) is an Australian-listed specialist investment company which concentrates on producing capital growth for shareholders over the medium to long term from investments in listed and unlisted equities and other financial assets.

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## Glossary



ABBREVIATION <sup>α</sup>	Definition <sup>α</sup>
AUD <sup>α</sup>	means Australian dollars. <sup>α</sup>
AA SB <sup>α</sup>	Australian Accounting Standards Board. <sup>α</sup>
ACMPR <sup>α</sup>	means Access to Cannabis for Medical Purposes Regulations. <sup>α</sup>
ASX <sup>α</sup>	means ASX Limited (ACN 008 624 691) or the financial market operated by ASX Limited, as the context requires. <sup>α</sup>
ASX Listing Rules <sup>α</sup>	means the Listing Rules of ASX. <sup>α</sup>
B2B <sup>α</sup>	Business to business <sup>α</sup>
CAD <sup>α</sup>	means Canadian dollars. <sup>α</sup>
CBD <sup>α</sup>	means Cannabidiol (CBD) is a crystalline, nonintoxicating cannabinoid in cannabis and hemp. <sup>α</sup>
CBG <sup>α</sup>	means Cannabigerol is the non-acidic form of cannabigerolic acid, the parent molecule from which other cannabinoids are synthesized. <sup>α</sup>
Company or MMJ <sup>α</sup>	means MMJ Group Holdings Limited (ACN 601 236 417). <sup>α</sup>
DNA <sup>α</sup>	deoxyribonucleic acid <sup>α</sup>
EBITDA <sup>α</sup>	means Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation. <sup>α</sup>
GMP <sup>α</sup>	GMP stands for Good Manufacturing Practices and refers to a system of manufacturing that guarantees reproducibility of product quality to set specifications. <sup>α</sup>
IPO <sup>α</sup>	Initial public offering of securities on a recognised securities exchange <sup>α</sup>
LPs <sup>α</sup>	Canada's Licensed Producers of Cannabis Products <sup>α</sup>
M <sup>α</sup>	means million <sup>α</sup>
MMPR <sup>α</sup>	means Marihuana for Medical Purposes Regulation <sup>α</sup>
MOIC <sup>α</sup>	means multiple on invested capital <sup>α</sup>
NTA <sup>α</sup>	means net tangible assets. <sup>α</sup>
PCR <sup>α</sup>	polymerase chain reaction <sup>α</sup>
Covid19 <sup>α</sup>	CO stands for corona, 'VI' for virus, and 'D' for disease. <sup>α</sup>
Option <sup>α</sup>	means an option to acquire a Share usually at predetermined price. <sup>α</sup>
Share <sup>α</sup>	means a fully paid ordinary share in the capital of the Company. <sup>α</sup>
Shareholder <sup>α</sup>	means a registered holder of a Share. <sup>α</sup>
TGA <sup>α</sup>	Means the Therapeutic Goods Administration <sup>α</sup>
THC <sup>α</sup>	means THC is the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis. <sup>α</sup>
TSXV <sup>α</sup>	Toronto Stock Exchange Venture <sup>¶</sup>
Warrant <sup>α</sup>	means an option to acquire a Share usually at predetermined price. <sup>α</sup>
WST <sup>α</sup>	means Western Standard Time as observed in Perth, Western Australia. <sup>α</sup>

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## **Valo Therapeutics Announces €11m Fundraise to Advance PeptiCRAd Immunotherapy Platform into the Clinic**

### **Co-founder Dr Sari Pesonen, Head of R&D, promoted to CSO**

**Helsinki, Finland, 15 November 2021:** Valo Therapeutics Oy (Valo Tx), the developer of novel, adaptable immunotherapy platforms for cancer and infectious diseases, today announced it has successfully raised Euro 11 million (around USD 12.75 million) in an oversubscribed Pre-IPO funding round. Corporate advisory firm Ironside Capital acted as lead manager for Valo Tx. The Pre-IPO fund included participation from existing investors, Freeman Road, and new investors, including ASX-listed MMJ Group Holdings. The total raised to date is now over Euro 22 million (around USD 25.5 million). The majority of the proceeds will be used to finalise preparations and initiate a Phase 1 clinical study of the company's lead tumour antigen-coated oncolytic virus candidate, PeptiCRAd-1, in addition to the continued development of the anti-infectives platforms including PeptiBAC and PeptiVAX. The proceeds will also be used to support the preparation of Valo's IPO in 2022.

The Company also announced the internal promotion to Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) of Dr Sari Pesonen, Valo Tx's current Head of R&D, and a co-founder of the company. Dr Pesonen has previously led scientific development in immuno-oncology biotech companies and has substantial experience in clinical drug development, including, at Oncos Therapeutics, which demonstrated, for the first time, the mode of action of oncolytic adenovirus-based cancer immunotherapy. She is a co-author on over 60 peer-reviewed research papers and inventor in several patents related to oncolytic viruses. Sari has a PhD in biology from the University of Turku, Finland.

Paul Higham, CEO of Valo Tx, commented, "This successful financing is yet another significant milestone as we further validate our PeptiCRAd platform and now take the important step into the first clinical study. In addition, the financing will allow us to further validate our other oncology and infectious disease platforms and our pan Coronavirus T-cell vaccine. I'm also delighted to announce Dr Sari Pesonen as our new CSO, who has been instrumental in bringing the company to this point and will continue to focus on advancing our immunotherapy platforms".

Dr Paul Porter from Freeman Road, a family consortium with deep expertise in the healthcare technology space, and a primary investor in Valo Therapeutics, said, "At Freeman Road we help bring new ideas to the market. We've backed Valo right from the start, and the high value we saw in the company's ideas back at its seed round is still rock solid today: the business concept is novel, backed by a highly experienced team, with the potential for enormous market, and patient, impact. Valo's innovative solutions to vaccines, immuno-oncology and personalised cancer treatments are life-changing and will overcome some of medicine's greatest challenges"

Dr Sari Pesonen, CSO of Valo Tx, commented, "I'm thrilled to become Valo's CSO after 5 years heading R&D at Valo, pursuing my passion to develop immunotherapy platforms. We expect our platform will be a powerful system to deliver advanced individualized or 'patient-specific' cancer treatments, in indications including metastatic melanoma, non-small cell lung cancer, and triple negative breast cancer."

PeptiCRAd (Peptide-coated Conditionally Replicating Adenovirus) is an innovative way of combining the best features of two clinically proven cancer immunotherapy approaches: oncolytic adenoviruses and peptide vaccines. PeptiCRAd uses tumour replication specific oncolytic viruses as active carriers of tumor-specific peptides to direct the immune system to specifically target and kill cancer cells.

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## **About Valo Tx**

Valo Therapeutics (Helsinki) is an immunotherapy company that is developing antigen-coated oncolytic viruses and vaccine vectors as therapeutic vaccines against cancer and infectious disease. The Valo Tx lead platform, PeptiCRAd (Peptide-coated Conditionally Replicating Adenovirus), was developed out of the laboratory of Professor Vincenzo Cerullo at the University of Helsinki. It turns oncolytic adenoviruses into targeted tissue specific cancer vaccines without the need to generate and manufacture multiple genetically modified viruses. The company is also developing PeptiENV and PeptiVAX, among other neoantigen strategies, in collaboration with Professor Cerullo. PeptiENV is expected to improve the therapeutic response to oncolytic enveloped viruses in the treatment of multiple forms of cancer, while PeptiVAX is a program to develop a novel, adaptable anti-infectives vaccination platform.

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