Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited take no responsibility for the contents of this announcement, make no representation as to its accuracy or completeness and expressly disclaim any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from or in reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this announcement.



Brii Biosciences Limited 腾盛博药生物科技有限公司 (Incorporated in the Cayman Islands with limited liability) (Stock Code: 2137)

## VOLUNTARY ANNOUNCEMENT BUSINESS UPDATE

This announcement is made by the board of directors (the "**Board**") of Brii Biosciences Limited (the "**Company**") on a voluntary basis.

The Board is pleased to announce new data from two Phase 2 studies evaluating BRII-179 either as combination therapy with BRII-835 (elebsiran) or as an add-on therapy to pegylated interferon-alpha ("**PEG-IFNa**") treatment for chronic hepatitis B virus ("**HBV**") infection at the European Association for the Study of the Liver Congress 2024.

Data presented in an oral presentation from a Phase 2 clinical trial demonstrated BRII-179, a therapeutic vaccine, in combination with BRII-835 (elebsiran) induced substantial HBV-specific B and T cell responses that correlate with antiviral effect in a subset of participants with chronic HBV infection. The exploratory translational study evaluating the correlation of treatment-induced immune response with antiviral effects demonstrated that:

- Pre-S1-specific T cell response targeting a region adjacent to sodium taurocholate cotransporting polypeptide was identified to be associated with high levels of hepatitis B surface antigen ("**HBsAg**") reduction in some participants receiving BRII-835 (elebsiran) and BRII-179.
- *Ex vivo* Pre-S1-specific Th1-type cytokines were detected in participants with high HBsAg reduction, while Th2-type responses were not associated with HBsAg reduction.
- BRII-179 induced robust anti-HBV neutralizing activity in participants with high levels of HBsAg reduction and hepatitis B surface antibody ("HBsAb") induction.

"This study shows for the first time direct evidence that immune responses induced by an HBV therapeutic vaccine is associated with HBsAg reduction and viral control in some participants with chronic HBV infection," said Antonio Bertoletti, MD, Professor, Emerging Infectious Diseases Program at Duke-NUS Medical School. "The antiviral activity appears to be linked with a boosting of anti-HBs antibodies and Pre-S1-specific T cell responses induced by BRII-179, supporting that BRII-179 can break immune tolerance and have an impact on sustained control of the viral infection."

Additionally, late-breaker poster presentation data from a Phase 2 clinical trial demonstrated that BRII-179 administrated on top of PEG-IFN $\alpha$  improved overall HBsAg loss rate from end-of-treatment ("EOT") to at least 24 weeks post nucleos(t)ide reverse transcriptase inhibitors ("NRTI") discontinuation compared to the PEG-IFN $\alpha$  group. Follow-up data from this randomized, double-blind and placebo-controlled clinical trial in 114 virally-suppressed participants with chronic HBV infection showed that:

- Among the participants who met NRTI discontinuation criteria and entered NRTI discontinuation monitoring period ("NDMP"), a higher percentage of participants in the BRII-179 + PEG-IFN $\alpha$  group maintained HBsAg loss (19.3% vs 12.3% in full analysis set ("FAS")) compared to the placebo + PEG-IFN $\alpha$  group. The improvement in overall HBsAg loss rate was sustained from EOT (26.3% vs 19.3% in FAS) to at least 24-week post NRTI discontinuation (the "cut-off date") or 36-week post EOT in BRII-179 + PEG-IFN $\alpha$  group. No participant who discontinued NRTI required NRTI retreatment.
- A higher percentage of participants in the BRII-179 + PEG-IFN $\alpha$  group maintaining HBsAg loss had HBsAb  $\geq$  100 IU/L compared to the placebo + PEG-IFN $\alpha$  group (36.4% vs 14.3% in FAS) at  $\geq$  24-weeks post NRTI discontinuation.
- No participant with HBsAb titer ≥ 100 IU/L at EOT experienced HBsAg changed from < 0.05 IU/mL (LLOQ) to ≥ 0.05 IU/mL (i.e. HBsAg rebound) through the cut-off date, suggesting that robust antibody responses against HBV are necessary for sustained off-treatment HBsAg loss.
- Treatment with BRII-179 and PEG-IFNα combination was generally safe and tolerated. No new risk was identified in the post EOT follow-up period and the NDMP.

The favorable benefit-risk profile and scientific insights from these studies support further clinical evaluation of BRII-179 in combination with other modalities, such as small interfering ribonucleic acid and PEG-IFN $\alpha$ , as key components for the treatment of chronic HBV infection, with the goal of achieving functional cure.

**Cautionary Statement:** There is no assurance that BRII-179 or BRII-835 will ultimately be successfully developed or marketed by the Company. Shareholders of the Company and potential investors are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the shares of the Company. When in doubt, shareholders of the Company and potential investors are advised to seek advice from professional or financial advisers.

By order of the Board Brii Biosciences Limited Dr. Zhi Hong Chairman

Hong Kong, June 7, 2024

As at the date of this announcement, the Board comprises Dr. Zhi Hong and Dr. Ankang Li as executive directors; Mr. Robert Taylor Nelsen as non-executive director; and Dr. Martin J Murphy Jr, Ms. Grace Hui Tang, Mr. Yiu Wa Alec Tsui, Mr. Gregg Huber Alton and Dr. Taiyin Yang as independent non-executive directors.