



PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 25, 2003

Nikkei Sangyo News: "Long Term Culture of Neuronal Cells Used in Efficacy Testing for New Drugs"

Olympus and Shin-Etsu invested into Acucela Inc. in Seattle WA. Acucela commercialized technology that can maintain neuronal cells without losing function for long periods of time. This technology can be used to test efficacy and toxicity of drugs before they are brought into clinical trials. The company is planning to collaborate with pharmaceutical companies to get licensing fees and expand their business.

Acucela Forward-Looking Statement

This press release contains "forward-looking statements" as that term is defined in the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements involve risks and uncertainties, which may cause results to differ materially from those set forth in the statements. The forward-looking statements include statements regarding product development. No forward-looking statement can be guaranteed, and actual results may differ materially from those projected. Acucela undertakes no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise.

Contact:

Sayuri Refsland
IR Liaison, Executive Assistant
IR@acucela.com