



PRESS RELEASE

NOVEMBER 22, 2004

Leading Ophthalmology Researcher to Join Acucela's Scientific Advisory Board

Acucela has added Dr. Krzysztof Palczewski, a world leader in the field of retinal analysis, to its Scientific Advisory Board. Dr. Palczewski is the E.K. Bishop Professor of Ophthalmology and professor of pharmacology and chemistry at the University of Washington. He received his doctorate from the Technical University of Wroclaw in Poland in 1986. After holding positions at the University of Florida, the Oregon Health & Science University, and the R. S. Dow Neurological Sciences Institute, he joined the faculty of the University of Washington in 1992 as an assistant professor. During his prolific research career, he has received numerous awards, including the Cogan Award from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO), the Humboldt Research Award for Senior U.S. Scientists, and the Trustee Award from the Foundation Fighting Blindness. One of Dr. Palczewski's research interests is diagnostic devices for retinal analysis.

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