



APRIL 28, 2005

Acucela Inc. Adds to Board of Directors

Acucela Inc., a Seattle, WA biotech company developing new drugs for eye diseases, has formed a Board of Directors with a wealth of experience in ophthalmology, pharmaceutical development, and finance. The Board consists of:

Dr. Ryo Kubota, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Les Kaplan, Chief Strategy Officer

Mr. Yoshitaka Kitao

Dr. Kubota is a leader in neurodegenerative disease research. His work in the field of retinal neurodegeneration has been cited almost 400 times and has opened the door to other discoveries. He has been given several prestigious awards such as the Suda Award for his contribution in the field of neurodegenerative retinal disease when he discovered the gene responsible for glaucoma (Myocilin). He has been invited to give presentations in prestigious symposiums and conferences including The Glaucoma Foundation's International Think Tank on Optic Nerve Rescue and Restoration. He is the inventor of the core technology that Acucela licensed from the University of Washington.

Dr. Kaplan joined Allergan in 1983 and, prior to being appointed to Executive Vice President, was Corporate Vice President, Research and Development and Global BOTOX from June 1998 to November 2003. Dr. Kaplan was elected to Allergan's board of directors in 1994 and served in that capacity until April 2004. Dr. Kaplan is also a member of the board of the Keck Graduate Institute and the National Neurovision Research Institute. Dr. Kaplan received a M.S. and Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mr. Yoshitaka Kitao is the CEO of SOFTBANK FINANCE CORPORATION. Mr. Kitao began his career at Nomura Securities Co., Ltd., where during his 21-year career at Nomura Securities Co., Ltd, he was mainly engaged in the investment banking business. He joined SOFTBANK CORP. in 1995 as Executive Vice President and CFO. He has been appointed CEO of the following SOFTBANK FINANCE group companies: SOFTBANK INVESTMENT CORPORATION, BIOVISION CAPITAL CORP. and Finance All Corporation. He also serves as Chairman of E*TRADE SECURITIES CO.,LTD. He holds degrees in economics from Keio University and Cambridge University.

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.