



Acucela Inc.
21720 23rd Dr. SE
Suite 120
Bothell, WA 98021
Tel:425.527.3260
Fax:425.527.3156

ACUCELA TO PRESENT AT C21 BIOVENTURES CONFERENCE

BOTHELL, WA – May 20, 2008—Acucela Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company discovering new drug therapies for eye diseases, today announced that Ryo Kubota, M.D., Ph.D., president and chief executive officer, will present at the annual C21 BioVentures Conference in Napa, California, at 11:30 a.m. EDT on May 21, 2008. Dr. Kubota will provide the audience with a general update on Acucela's progress in its clinical and preclinical-stage programs.

"We look forward to presenting an update on Acucela at this important conference and to having the opportunity to discuss the company and our progress with the investor and venture capital communities," stated Dr. Kubota. "We look forward to initiating a clinical trial later this quarter for our novel, proprietary, non-retinoid compound for age-related macular degeneration and remain excited about the data we observed in our earlier clinical trials for the dry form of AMD."

About Dry Age-Related Macular Degeneration

Age-related macular degeneration afflicts over 29 millions people worldwide and is segmented into "dry" and "wet" forms of the disease. Dry AMD accounts for approximately 90 percent of the total AMD population, and unlike wet AMD, there are no approved therapies for the disease, which is currently the leading cause of vision loss in people over the age of 50.

About Acucela

Acucela Inc. is focused on developing new drug therapies for eye diseases, and particularly neurodegenerative retinal diseases such as macular degeneration. The company has proprietary disease-specific assays and technologies to identify and develop compounds that may safely and effectively treat retinal diseases. The company's novel approaches have significant therapeutic potential to treat retinal diseases such as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) and Stargardt disease. The Bothell-based, privately-held, biotechnology company was founded in 2002. For more information, please visit <http://www.acucela.com>

Press Contact

Acucela Inc.

Sayuri Refsland (U.S.): sayuri@acucela.com

Kenzo Ogiwara (Japan): 03-5789-4748, kogiwara@acucela.com