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### **Acucela to Present at the 2008 BIO Investor Forum**

**BOTHELL, WA – October 28, 2008** Acucela Inc., clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on developing therapies for blinding eye diseases, announced today that Ryo Kubota, M.D., Ph.D., Acucela's chief executive officer, will present a corporate overview at the 2008 BIO Investor Forum in San Francisco, California. The presentation is scheduled for Thursday, October 30 at 2:15 pm PDT.

"We are delighted to have an opportunity to present an overview on Acucela at the BIO Investor Forum," said Dr. Kubota. "This is a great opportunity to provide an update on our clinical-stage product candidates. ACU-4429, is in a Phase 1 clinical study for dry AMD, and the company is also developing Rebamipide ophthalmic suspension for dry eye, which is currently in a Phase 3 clinical trial for dry eye. Our mission is to develop therapies which prevent blindness, so we are working to develop safer, more efficacious therapies for multiple eye diseases."

#### **About Acucela**

Acucela Inc. is a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on developing new drug therapies for blinding eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), Stargardt disease, diabetic retinopathy and retinopathy of prematurity and dry eye. The most advanced product candidate of our developing compounds, Rebamipide ophthalmic suspension, is currently in a Phase 3 clinical trial for dry eye. This compound is being co-developed with Otsuka Pharmaceutical in the United States as of September 2008. Rebamipide is a small molecule that stimulates the production of mucin which is an important component of tear film. The company is also conducting a Phase 1 clinical trial of ACU-4429 for dry AMD. ACU-4429 is a small molecule, non-retinoid, visual cycle modulator currently being co-developed with Otsuka. The Bothell-based, privately-held biotechnology company was founded in 2002. For more information, please visit <http://www.acucela.com>.

#### **About the BIO Investor Forum**

The BIO Investor Forum is a national forum to explore investment trends and opportunities in life sciences, with a focus on public and venture-stage growth companies as well as those poised to join the growth "watch list." BIO holds numerous meetings around the world each year, offering biotechnology companies opportunities to explore partnerships that will foster continued innovation. As the biotech industry continues to grow, BIO's investor and partnering meetings play a key role in generating the partnerships that will help bring new therapies to market.

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