



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

Acucela to Present at the Rodman & Renshaw Healthcare Conference

BOTHELL, WA – November 7, 2008 Acucela Inc., a 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 company update at the Rodman & Renshaw 10th Annual Healthcare Conference. The presentation is scheduled for 10:20 a.m. EST on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at the New York Palace Hotel in New York City.

"We are excited to have the opportunity to present an overview of Acucela at the Rodman & Renshaw Healthcare Conference," stated Dr. Kubota. "We at Acucela are sharply focused on developing new drug therapies for blinding eye diseases, and we look forward to discussing our clinical-stage programs including ACU-4429 for age-related macular degeneration and Rebamipide ophthalmic suspension for dry eye. We also plan to highlight in our presentation our recently announced collaborations with Otsuka Pharmaceutical for both of these product candidates."

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>.

Press Contact

Acucela Inc.

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

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

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