



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

---

### **Acucela to Present at INVEST NORTHWEST 2008 Conference**

**BOTHELL – March 18, 2008** Acucela Inc., a clinical-stage biotechnology company discovering new drug therapies for eye diseases, announced that Ryo Kubota, M.D., Ph.D., President and CEO, will present today at the annual Invest Northwest 2008 Conference in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Kubota will present in the Sound Conference Room at 9:20 a.m. PDT. Dr. Kubota will provide the audience with a general update on Acucela's progress in its clinical and preclinical-stage programs.

"We are excited to have an opportunity to present at this important conference and look forward to providing the investment community with an update on our clinical-stage program for age-related macular degeneration (AMD) as well as other ongoing activities at the company," stated Dr. Kubota. "We are excited about the data from our early clinical trials for the drug which will target the dry form of AMD, which demonstrated the potential interruption of the process leading to this blinding eye disease, and we expect to initiate a clinical trial with our novel, proprietary, non-retinoid compound in the second quarter."

#### **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 can safely and effectively treat retinal diseases and injuries. The company's novel approaches have significant therapeutic potential to treat retinal diseases such as Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD), Stargardt disease, and glaucoma, which affect 50 million people worldwide. The Bothell-based company was founded in 2002. For more information, please visit <http://www.acucela.com>.

#### **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.

#### **Press Contact**

Acucela Inc.  
Jeff Chen (U.S.): [jeffchen@acucela.com](mailto:jeffchen@acucela.com)  
Kenzo Ogiwara (Japan): 03-5789-4748, [kogiwara@acucela.com](mailto:kogiwara@acucela.com)