

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Acucela to Present at the Second Annual Boston Biotech R&D Conference**

BOTHELL, Wash. (October 20, 2009) – Acucela, a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on developing new treatments for blinding eye diseases, announced today that Ryo Kubota, M.D., Ph.D., Acucela’s chairman, president and chief executive officer, is scheduled to present at the 2009 Boston Biotech R&D Conference at 11:40 a.m. EDT on October 27, 2009 at Harvard Medical School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The conference will bring together scientific leaders from top academic institutions that have been instrumental in establishing the strong Boston research community, executives from several of the area’s most promising and innovative biopharmaceutical companies, and principals from the venture capital community and equity markets.

“We are very pleased to be presenting at this year’s Boston Biotech R&D conference,” stated Dr. Kubota. “The conference has quickly established itself as an interactive forum to share information with leading biotech and pharmaceutical companies and discuss the advances being made in cutting-edge research and development programs. We are looking forward to discussing our Visual Cycle Modulator (VCM) technology, our clinical programs in blinding eye diseases and our efforts to ultimately prevent vision loss and blindness with our peers and colleagues in the Boston community.”

#### **About the Boston Biotech R&D Conference**

The 2009 Boston Biotech R&D Conference will highlight up-and-coming biotech companies in the Boston area. The agenda features several luminaries in medicine and research, as well as executives of the next generation of leading biotech and pharma companies from the Boston area. Jonathan Kraft, president and chief executive officer of The Kraft Group and president of the New England Patriots, will provide the keynote address. The conference is being organized by Christoph Westphal, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of Sirtris, a GSK company and Senior Vice President of the Center of Excellence for External Drug Discovery (CEEDD), GSK and Michelle Dipp, M.D., Ph.D., Vice President, Head of U.S. CEEDD, GSK. The conference is sponsored by Pure Communications Inc., Massachusetts Biotechnology Council and Merriman Curhan Ford. For more information, visit [www.bostonbiotechconference.com](http://www.bostonbiotechconference.com).

#### **About Acucela Inc.**

Acucela Inc. is a clinical-stage biotechnology company focused on leveraging promising science in visual cycle modulation (VCM) to develop new methods for treating blinding eye diseases that affect tens of millions of people worldwide. The company's orally-delivered VCM therapies, which selectively target cells within the retina to protect visual acuity, have the potential to be used to treat several devastating eye diseases, including dry age-related macular degeneration (AMD), retinopathy of prematurity, Stargardt disease and diabetic retinopathy. Acucela is also developing, with Otsuka Pharmaceutical, Rebamipide ophthalmic suspension, a Phase 3 product candidate for dry eye. For more information, please visit [www.Acucela.com](http://www.Acucela.com).

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