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**Acucela to Present at the Rodman & Renshaw 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Healthcare Conference**

BOTHELL, Wash. (September 2, 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, will present a company update at the Rodman & Renshaw 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Healthcare Conference. The presentation is scheduled for 4:55p.m. EDT on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at the New York Palace Hotel in New York City.

“We look forward to presenting an overview of Acucela and more details about our recent clinical progress at the Rodman & Renshaw Healthcare Conference,” stated Dr. Kubota. “With the need for effective blinding eye disease treatments becoming even more critical as our population ages, Acucela is developing a new, oral drug therapy for the leading cause of blindness in people over the age of 50, dry age-related macular degeneration (“dry AMD”). We’re excited to discuss how we’re approaching this challenging condition, which affects 26 million people worldwide and for which there is currently no approved treatment.”

**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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