

FINAL RELEASE

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Acucela to Present at the Life Science Innovation Northwest Conference 2010

BOTHELL, Wash. (March 10, 2010) – 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 Life Science Innovation Northwest Conference at 10:25 a.m. PST on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle, Washington. The event will bring together the region's most innovative life sciences companies, research institutions, investors and entrepreneurs to discuss many topics such as regional innovation and its impact on the global community.

“We are excited to participate in the Life Science Innovation Northwest Conference, which will highlight the Washington region and its continuing effort to expand innovative thinking,” stated Dr. Kubota. “We look forward to sharing an update on Acucela's clinical progress and our efforts to develop treatments for devastating eye diseases, such as dry age-related macular degeneration which is estimated to affect more than 25 million people worldwide.”

About the Life Science Innovation Northwest Conference

Life Science Innovation Northwest will feature the region's diverse life science eco-system, and include presentations, panels and plenary sessions by leading experts from emerging and anchor device, diagnostic and biotech companies, premier research institutions and our global health community. The event is presented by the Washington Biotechnology & Biomedical Association (WBBA) and Burrill & Company.

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 product candidate for dry eye. For more information, please visit www.Acucela.com.

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